NASA WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS

PICTORIAL REFERENCE

National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas USA 77058

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Definitions

INTRODUCTION

The Inspectors Pictorial Reference provides full color visual examples of acceptance / rejection criteria which may be used for the design, manufacture and inspection of electrical / electronic equipment for high-reliability and space flight applications, and is a reference-only companion to the NASA Technical Standard, **NASA-STD-8739** series of workmanship requirements documents.

ACCEPTANCE / REJECTION CRITERIA

The following classification terms are used to identify acceptable and unacceptable workmanship conditions:

- PREFERRED – A condition that is close to "perfect".
- MANDATORY – A hard requirement that must be met.
- ACCEPTABLE – A condition that may not be perfect, but meets the requirement.
- UNACCEPTABLE – Does not meet the minimum requirement and that may be insufficient to ensure the form, fit, or function of the hardware in its end use.

REQUIREMENT REFERENCES

Each Acceptance / Rejection Criteria example contains a reference to the applicable requirement(s) from the NASA Technical Standard Series, NASA-STD-8739.x. In instances where there is no specific requirement, the reference defaults to **Best Workmanship Practice**, which identifies a procedure, practice, or process attribute that has been demonstrated through use and experience, to result in a robust design and high reliability.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS

Special requirements may exist which are not covered by, or do not comply with, the visual examples depicted in this reference, and which are in conflict with the requirements specified in the NASA-STD-8739 series documents. Engineering documentation shall contain the details for such instances, and shall take precedence over appropriate sections of this reference and the requirements document.

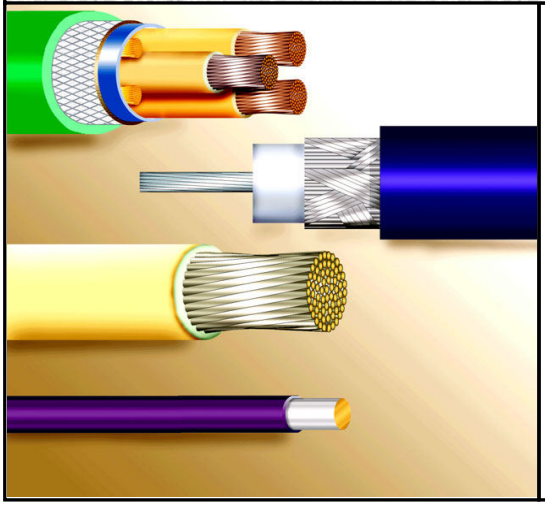
CONTROL COPY NUMBER / DISTRIBUTION

Each Pictorial Reference is issued with a Control Copy Number, and all subsequent releases will be distributed in accordance with this numbering system. Each assignee will be required to remove and insert pages of each release in their assigned manual in accordance with instructions given on each release, to maintain an up-to-date and useful reference. Should an assignee no longer require a manual, it shall be returned to the Technology Division (NX) of Safety, Reliability, and Quality Assurance (SR&QA).

This document shall not be rewritten or reissued in any other form not approved by NASA.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The illustrations and photographs contained in this reference represent a compilation of workmanship and "best design practices" from currently used industrial, military, and NASA-approved workmanship standards, compiled from technical expert sources within NASA, and from the Association Connecting Electronics Industries (IPC).

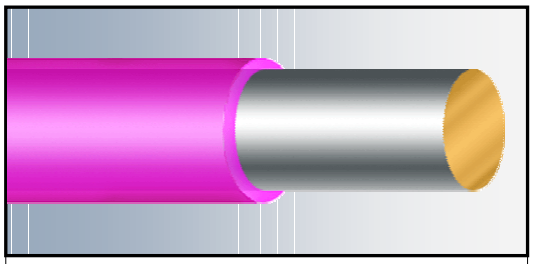


WIRE PREPARATION
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Wire conductors are available in many forms, ranging from single, solid insulated conductors, to highly integrated, multiple conductor cables.

Wires and cables can function as simple discrete jumpers on circuit boards, or woven into intricate harnesses that snake through a vehicle, functioning as the nervous system for the routing of command, control, and signal impulses.

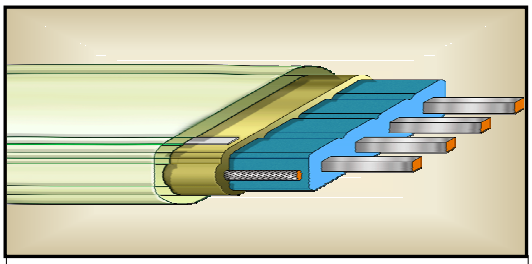
The correct preparation of conductors will result in a termination of high quality and reliability.



PREFERRED
CHEMICAL STRIPPING PROCESS

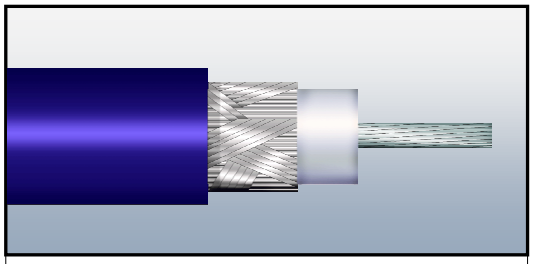
The insulation jacket has been neatly removed, with no damage to the conductor or insulation. No wicking of stripper or cleaner agents evident.

Note: Chemical stripping is suitable for solid conductors only.



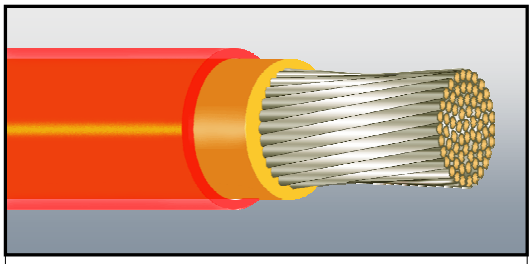
PREFERRED
FLAT CABLE

The outer jacket, conductive shield (if supplied), and conductor insulation jackets have been neatly trimmed and removed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage. The conductors are in planar orientation, and the drain conductor and/or shield are undamaged.



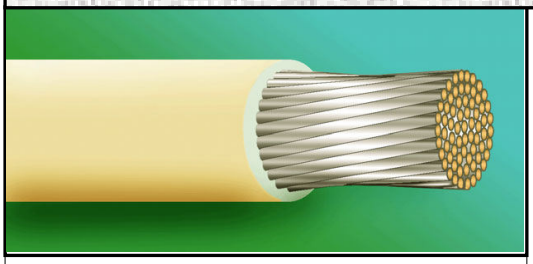
PREFERRED
FLEXIBLE COAXIAL CABLE

The insulation jacket and shield(s) have been neatly trimmed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductors, shielding, dielectric, or insulation jacket. The center conductor stranding exhibits a normal twist pattern (lay).



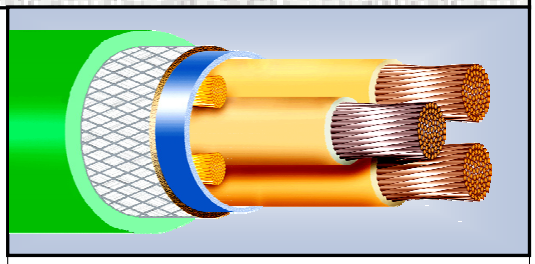
PREFERRED
KAPTON® INSULATED CONDUCTORS

Kapton®-insulated conductors must be trimmed neatly and squarely, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation.



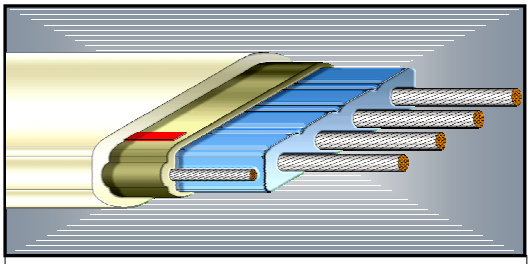
PREFERRED
MECHANICAL STRIPPING PROCESS

The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation. Conductor stranding lay (twist pattern) is undisturbed.



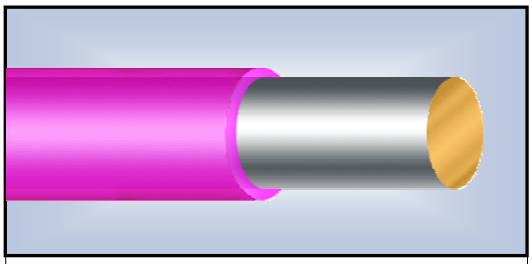
PREFERRED
MULTI-CONDUCTOR CABLE

The outer jacket, shield, strength members and conductor insulation have been neatly trimmed and removed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage. Conductor stranding lay (twist pattern) is undisturbed.



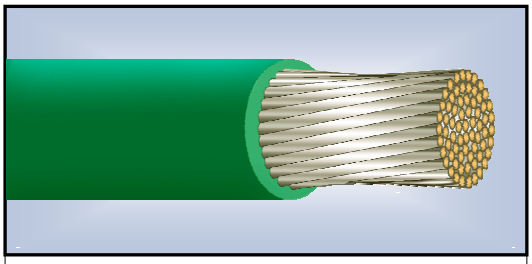
PREFERRED
RIBBON CABLE

The outer jacket, conductive shield (if supplied), and conductor insulation has been neatly trimmed and removed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage. The conductors are in normal planar orientation, and the drain conductor and/or shield are undamaged.



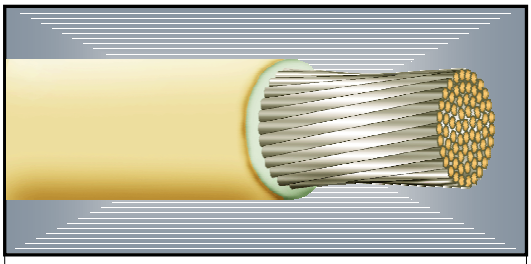
PREFERRED
SOLID CONDUCTOR

The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation. Chemical / thermal / laser-trimmed conductors may exhibit slight discoloration of the insulation jacket(s) at the trimmed edge.



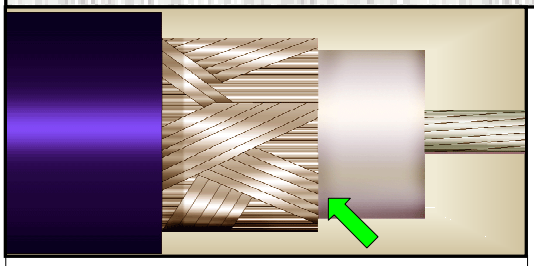
PREFERRED
STRANDED CONDUCTOR

The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation. Conductor stranding lay (twist pattern) is undisturbed.



PREFERRED
THERMAL / EXCIMER LASER STRIPPING

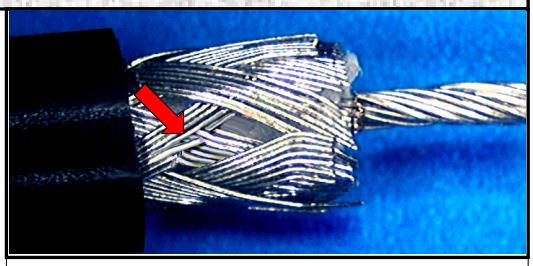
The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with minimal edge flash and no damage to the conductor or insulation. Slight discoloration of the insulation jacket(s) at the trimmed edge.



ACCEPTABLE
BRAIDED SHIELD

The shield has been properly stripped, evenly trimmed, and exhibits a fairly uniform coverage pattern (braid weave). No severed strands.

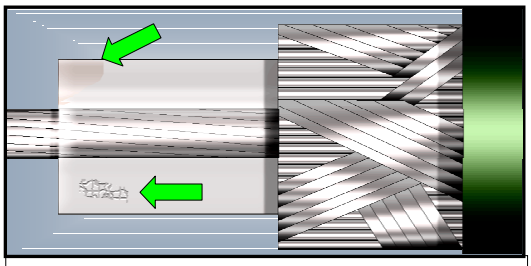
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.2], [19.6.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
SEVERED SHIELD STRANDS

Severed shield braid strands shall be cause for rejection.

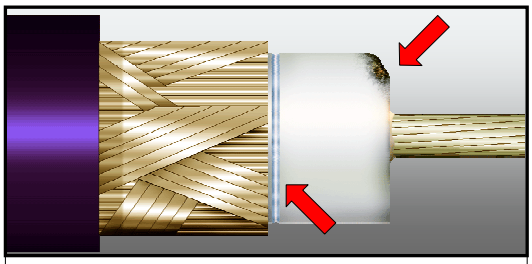
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.2], [19.6.2.a.4]



ACCEPTABLE
DIELECTRIC

The dielectric has been properly exposed, exhibiting a smooth, clean cut with minimal edge flash. Minor edge discoloration (due to thermal stripping) and/or surface scuffing is acceptable.

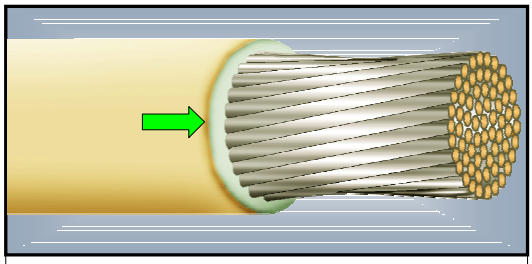
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DIELECTRIC DAMAGE

Coaxial cables with center conductors exhibiting damage to the dielectric (i.e.: burns, charring, cracks, crushing, cuts, deformation, necking, nicks, ringing, etc.) shall be rejected.

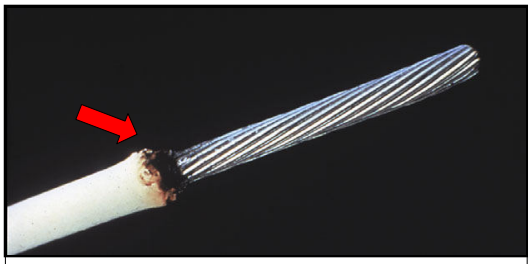
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2], [19.6.2.a.1]



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORED INSULATION

Slight discoloration of the insulation jacket(s) at the trimmed edge is acceptable. Evidence of burning or charring is not acceptable.

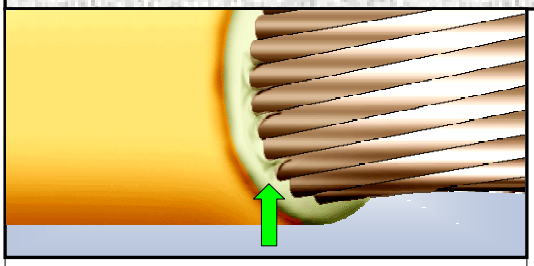
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2], [19.6.1.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURNED / CHARRED / MELTED INSULATION

Burned, charred, or melted insulation is indicator of improper process controls and/or stripping procedures, resulting in embrittlement, reduced dielectric properties, and reduced reliability.

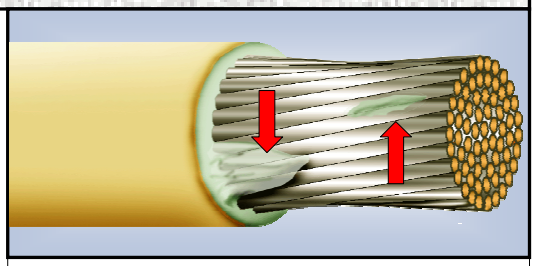
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH

Edge flash shall not exceed one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d). Edge flash is considered a contaminant, which may interfere with crimped or soldered terminations.

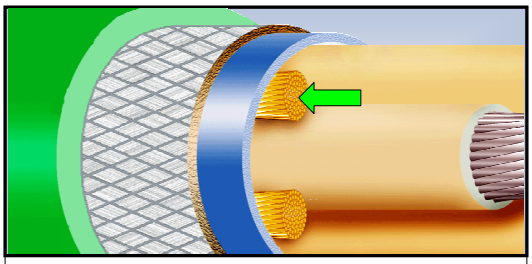
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH / SMEARING

The edge flash is in excess of one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d), and the stripped section exhibits smearing (melted insulation / film) which is considered a contaminant.

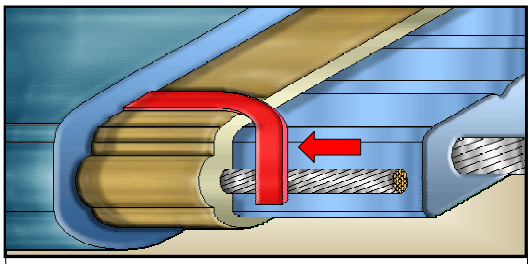
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



ACCEPTABLE
ID RIBBON / STRENGTH MEMBER

The identification ribbon and/or strength member should be trimmed back to the insulation to prevent its inclusion into a soldered or crimped termination.

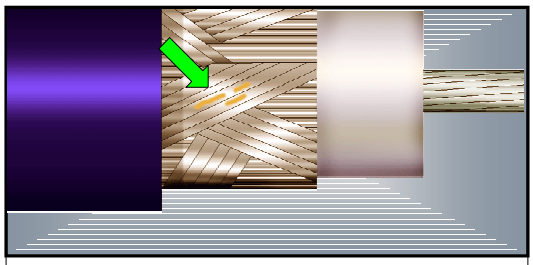
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNTRIMMED ID RIBBON / STRENGTH MEMBER

The identification ribbon and/or strength member has not been trimmed properly, which can interfere with the proper assembly of the soldered or crimped termination.

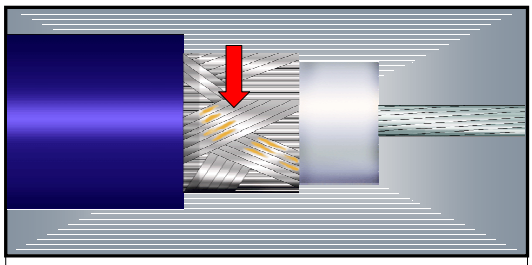
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
NICKED SHIELD STRANDS

Nicked shield strands shall not exceed 10% of the total number of strands.

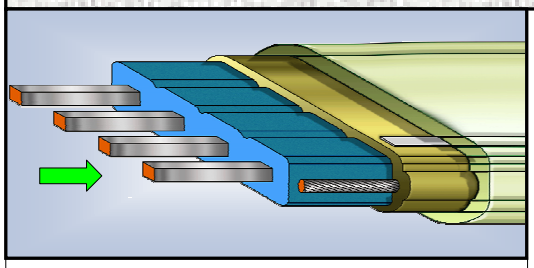
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.2], [19.6.1.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
NICKED SHIELD STRANDS

The number of nicked shield strands is in excess of 10% of the total number of strands.

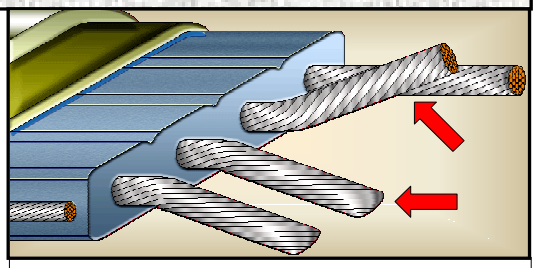
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.2], [19.6.2.b.2]



ACCEPTABLE
PLANAR ORIENTATION
FLAT / RIBBON CABLE

The individual exposed conductors should be in parallel (planar) orientation to each other, following stripping.

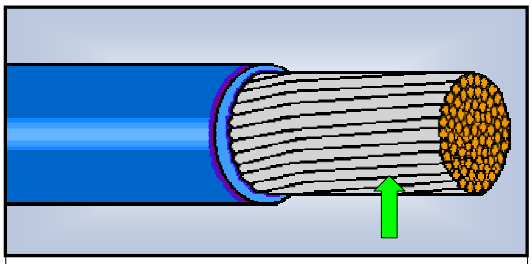
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
NON-PLANAR ORIENTATION
FLAT / RIBBON CABLE

Non-planar oriented conductors are typically the result of poor handling. The conductors may be returned to their original orientation, provided no other damage is present.

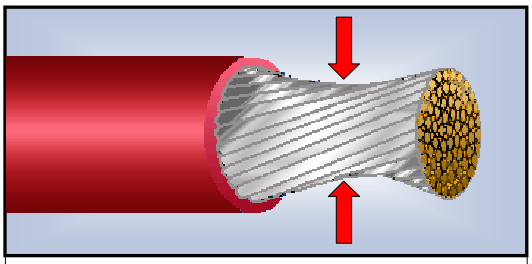
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
RETWISTED LAY

If the twist pattern (lay) of wire strands is disturbed, it shall be restored as nearly as possible to the original pattern. Retwisted lay is acceptable, provided no other damage is evident.

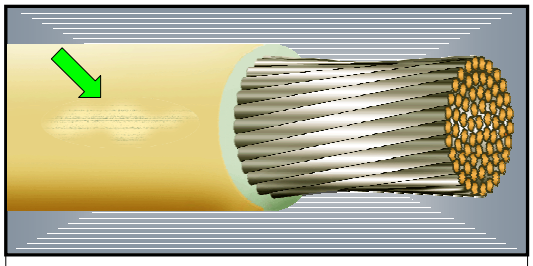
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.4]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.4], [19.6.1.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERTWISTED STRANDS

Strands twisted in excess of the normal twist pattern (lay) exert increased stress on individual strands, and may result in conductor breakage.

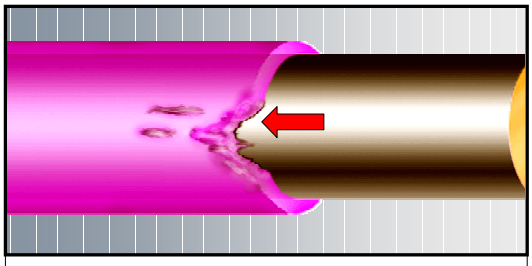
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.4]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.4]



ACCEPTABLE
SCUFFED INSULATION / JACKET

Slight scuffing (a dull or rubbed appearance) of the insulation surface finish is acceptable, provided no other damage is evident.

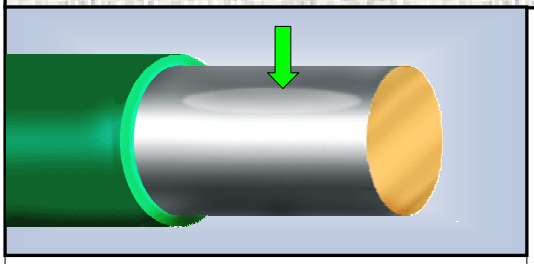
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION / JACKET

The conductor insulation and/or cable jacket shall not exhibit any damage, such as nicks, cuts, or charring. Conductors / jackets exhibiting damage (other than minor scuffing) shall not be used.

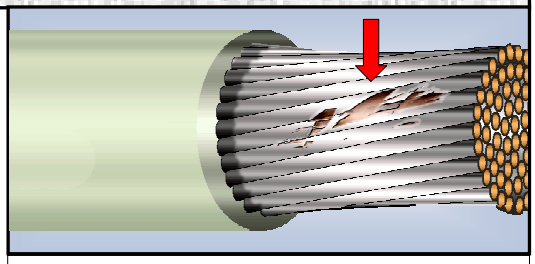
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH TOOL IMPRESSION MARKS

Smooth tool impression marks (slight cuts, nicks, scratches or scrapes) on the conductor surface, which do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area, are acceptable.

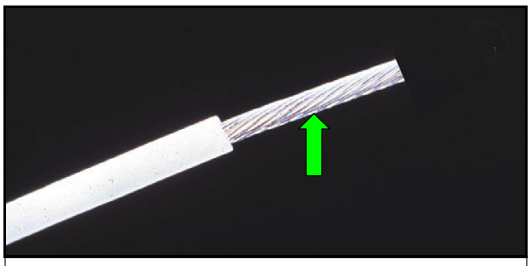
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONDUCTOR DAMAGE

Cuts, nicks, scratches or scrapes which reduce the conductor's overall cross-sectional area, reduce the current carrying capability, and/or expose conductor base metal are rejectable.

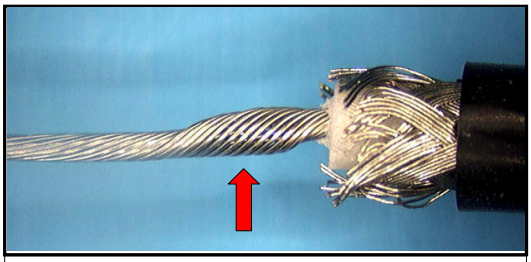
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3], [13.6.2.a.8]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3], [19.6.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
STRANDING LAY / TWIST PATTERN

Conductor stranding exhibits a normal twist pattern (lay).

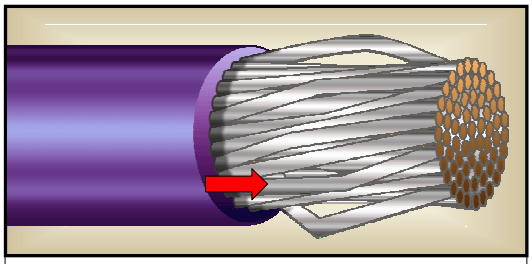
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1], [19.6.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISTURBED LAY

Stranded conductors exhibiting a disturbed twist pattern (lay) shall be rejected. Stranding which has been returned to the original lay is acceptable, provided no other damage is present.

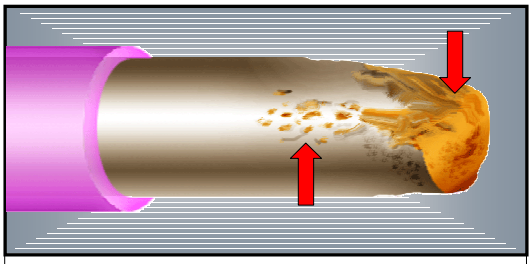
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.4]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.4], [19.6.1.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
BIRDCAGED STRANDS

Birdcaged strands are typically the result of poor handling. The strands may be returned to the original twist pattern (lay), provided no other damage is present.

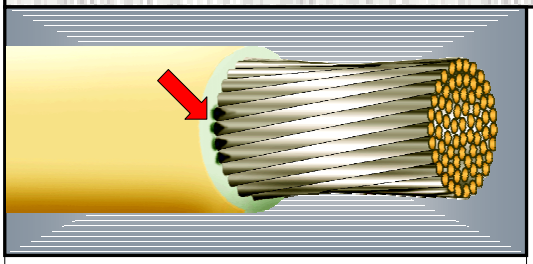
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.4], [13.6.2.a.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURNED / CORRODED CONDUCTOR (CHEMICAL STRIPPING)

Burns and/or corrosion are typically caused by the use of an extremely aggressive or chemically incompatible stripping agent, or excessive exposure.

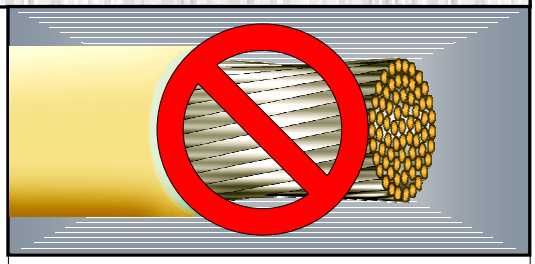
NASA-STD-8739.3 [6.6.2.c], [13.6.2.a.7]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURNED / ETCHED STRANDS
(THERMAL STRIPPING)

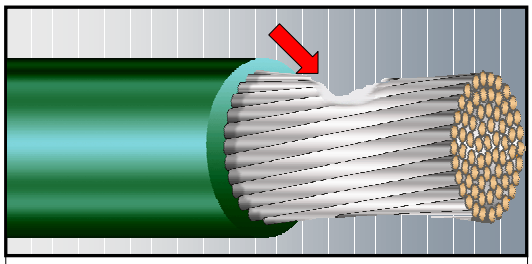
Burned or etched strands are typically caused by current flow between the thermal stripper blades, or as a result of stripping an energized conductor.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [6.6.2.b], [13.6.3.a.7]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHEMICAL STRIPPING PROCESS
INCORRECT CONDUCTOR TYPES

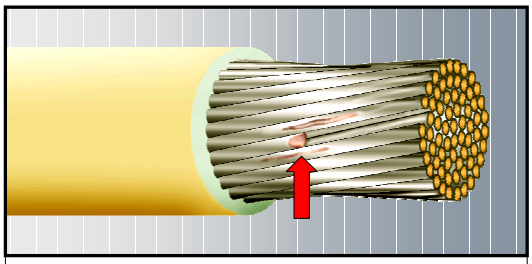
Chemical stripping of other than solid, single-conductor wire (i.e.: coaxial cable, flat cable, multi-conductor cable, ribbon cable, shielded, stranded, etc.) is prohibited.



UNACCEPTABLE
CRUSHED STRANDS

Crushed strands are an indicator of improper tooling, resulting in reduced conductor cross-sectional area, reduced current carrying capability, and reduced reliability.

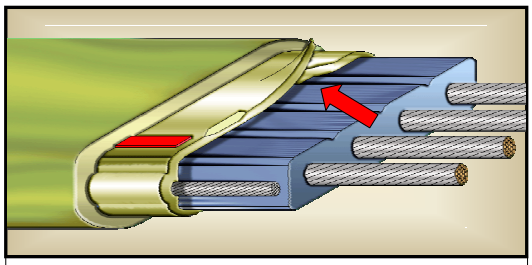
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3], [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
CUT OR FRAYED STRANDS

Cut or frayed strands are an indicator of an improper process or tooling, resulting in reduced current carrying capability, and reduced reliability.

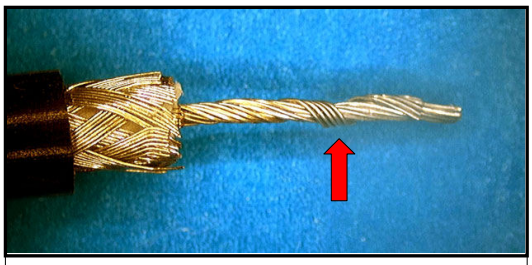
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3], [13.6.2.a.8]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3],[19.6.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED SHIELD

Cut, crushed, gouged, damaged, or nicked shielding may result in reduced electrical isolation and/or short circuits.

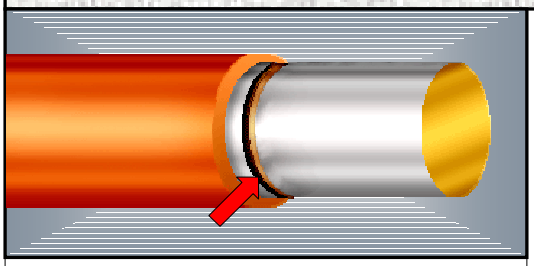
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERLAPPING STRANDS

Strands, retwisted and overlapping each other, will result in increased stress and difficulty in insertion, or the forming of a mechanical wrap.

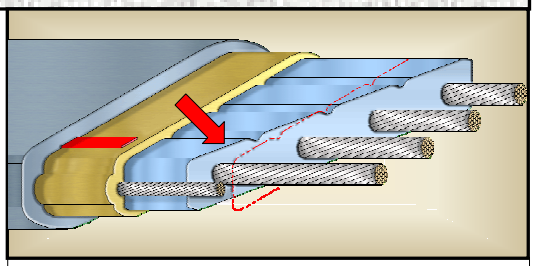
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.4]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
RINGED CONDUCTORS / STRANDS

Ringing is a symptom of an improper process or tooling. Ringing which reduces the overall cross-sectional area and/or results in exposed base metal shall be cause for rejection.

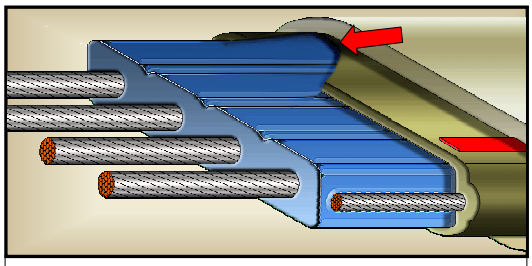
NASA-STD-8739.3 [6.6.1], [7.2.3], [13.6.2.a.8]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [6.6.1], [10.1.3], [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
UNEVENLY TRIMMED INSULATION

Unevenly trimmed insulation may result in reduced electrical isolation and/or short circuits, and may interfere with termination.

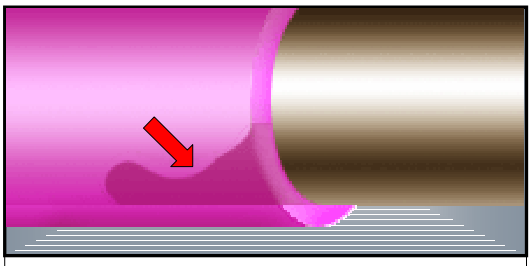
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNEVENLY TRIMMED SHIELD

Unevenly trimmed shielding indicates poor technique and may result in improper electrical termination during connector assembly.

Best Workmanship Practice

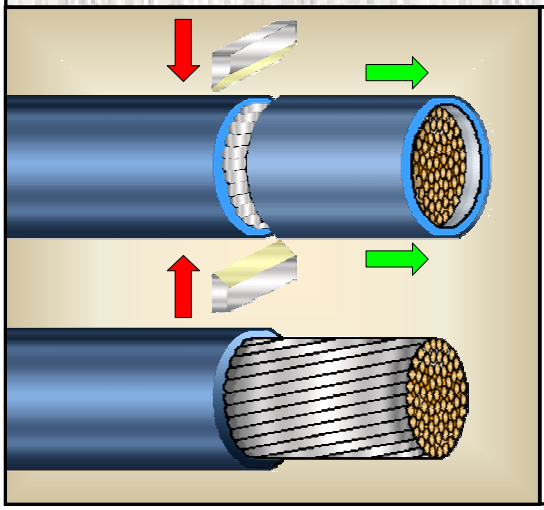


UNACCEPTABLE
WICKING

Wicking of chemical stripping and/or cleaning agents under the insulation jacket is a long-term reliability concern.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.9]

WIRE PREPARATION
MECHANICAL STRIPPING

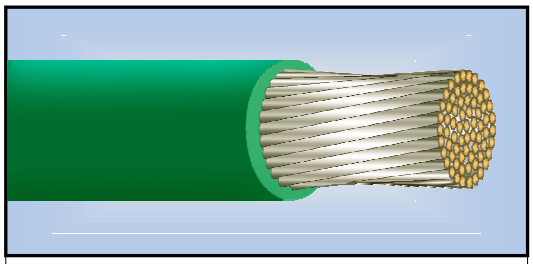


MECHANICAL STRIPPING

Mechanical stripping is an inexpensive, easy method of stripping most commonly used insulation materials, and is the preferred method for manually stripping film insulations such as Kapton®.

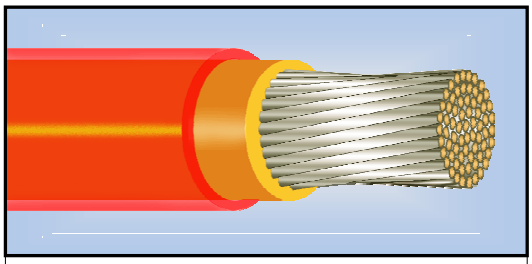
In the process, a grooved knife-edge is used to cut the insulation jacket down to the conductor. The severed insulation section is then manually removed without damaging the conductor.

See Section 1.01 “Wire Preparation, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



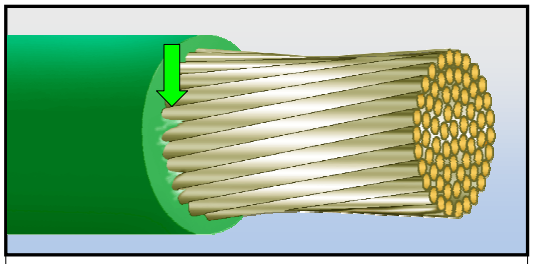
PREFERRED
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
(ALL CONDUCTOR / INSULATION TYPES)

The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with no edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation. Conductor stranding exhibits a normal twist pattern (lay).



PREFERRED
KAPTON® INSULATED CONDUCTORS

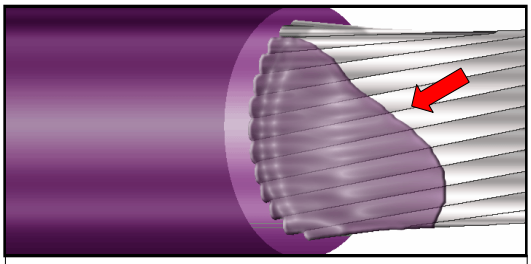
The insulation jacket has been trimmed neatly and squarely, with minimal edge flash and no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation. Conductor stranding lay (twist pattern) is undisturbed.



ACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH

Edge flash shall not exceed one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d). Edge flash is a thin layer of insulation that is produced during the stripping process, and is considered a contaminant.

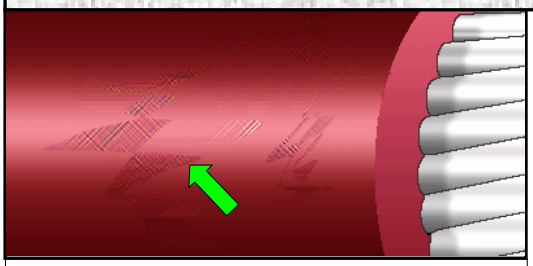
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE EDGE FLASH

The edge flash is in excess of one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d), and may interfere with the proper completion of a crimped or soldered termination.

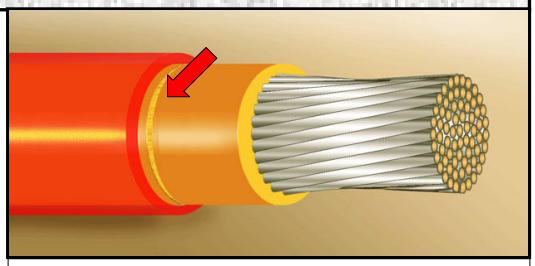
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



ACCEPTABLE
SCUFFED INSULATION / JACKET

Slight scuffing (a dull or rubbed appearance) of the insulation surface finish is acceptable, provided no other damage is evident.

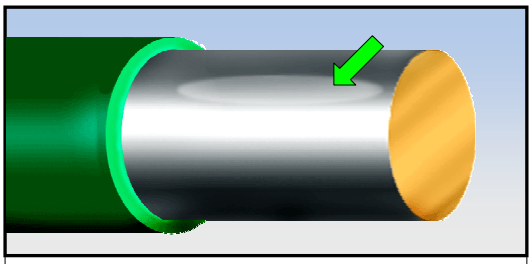
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION / JACKET

The conductor insulation and/or cable jacket shall not exhibit any damage, such as nicks, cuts, or charring. Conductors / jackets exhibiting damage (other than minor scuffing) shall not be used.

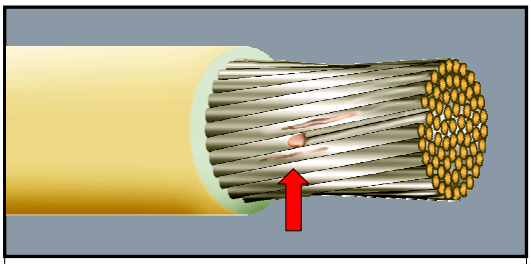
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2], [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2], [19.6.2.a.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH TOOL IMPRESSION MARKS

Smooth tool impression marks (slight cuts, nicks, scratches or scrapes) on the conductor surface, which do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area, are acceptable.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3]

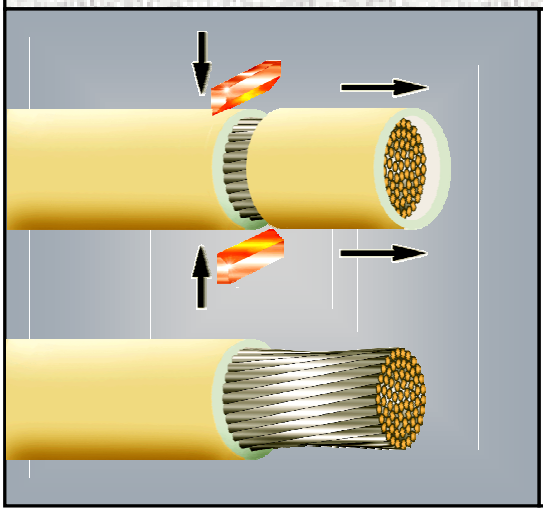


UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE TO CONDUCTORS

Conductors that exhibit reduced cross-sectional area or exposed base metal shall be rejected.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3], [13.6.2.a.8]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3], [19.6.2.a.2]

WIRE PREPARATION
EXCIMER LASER ABLATIVE AND THERMAL STRIPPING

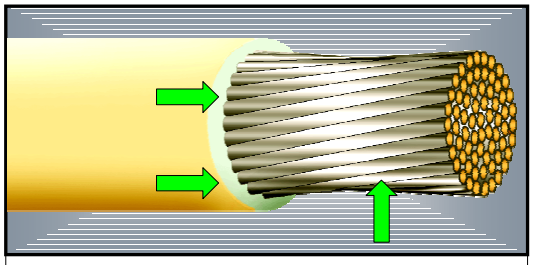


EXCIMER LASER ABLATIVE (ELA) AND THERMAL STRIPPING

Excimer laser ablative (ELA) stripping employs a laser to achieve extremely precise stripping of “difficult to strip” insulation materials and intricate conductor stripping geometries.

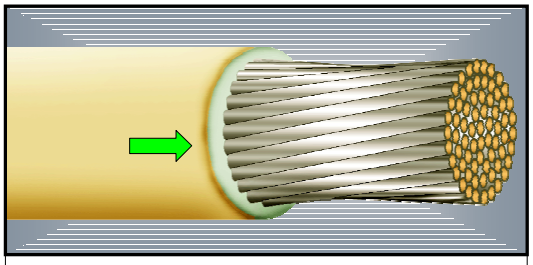
Thermal stripping is performed using a heated tool to melt a ring or groove into the insulation down to the conductor. The severed insulation section is then manually removed without damaging the conductor.

See Section 1.01 “Wire Preparation, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

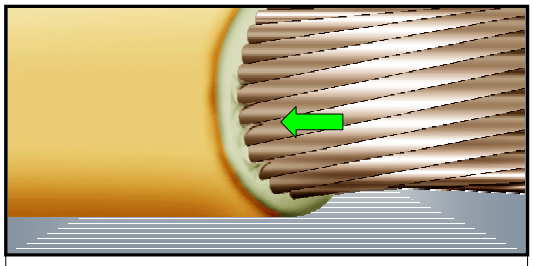
The insulation jacket has been neatly trimmed, with no edge flash, smearing, or damage. The conductor stranding lay (twist pattern) is undisturbed, and the conductor is undamaged.



ACCEPTABLE
THERMAL DISCOLORATION

Slight discoloration of the insulation jacket(s) at the trimmed edge is acceptable. Evidence of burning or charring is not acceptable.

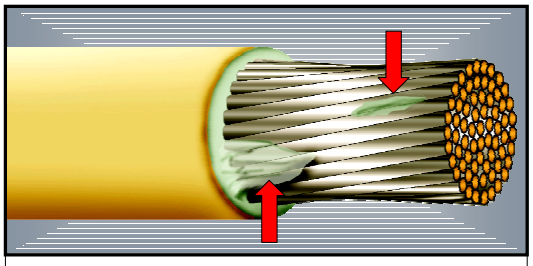
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2], [19.6.1.a.1]



ACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH

Edge flash shall not exceed one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d). Edge flash (as depicted) is considered normal, and should not contaminate or interfere with a crimped or soldered termination.

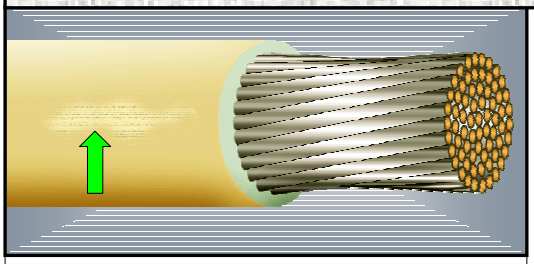
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH / SMEARING

The edge flash is in excess of one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d), and the stripped section exhibits smearing (melted insulation / film), which is considered a contaminant.

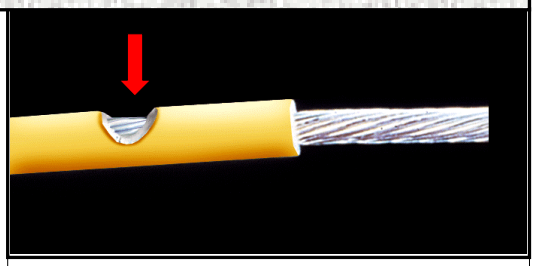
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]



ACCEPTABLE
SCUFFED INSULATION / JACKET

Slight scuffing (a dull or rubbed appearance) of the insulation surface finish is acceptable, provided no other damage is evident.

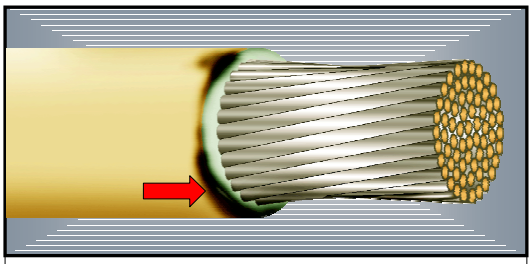
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION / JACKET

The conductor insulation and/or cable jacket shall not exhibit any damage, such as nicks, cuts, or charring. Conductors / jackets exhibiting damage (other than minor scuffing) shall not be used.

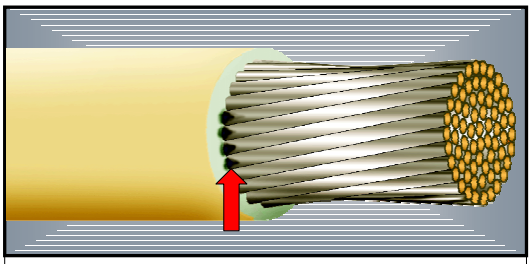
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURNED / CHARRED / PITTED INSULATION

Burned or charred insulation is the result of excessive heat application during the stripping process.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [6.6.1], [7.2.2], [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [6.6.1], [10.1.2], [19.6.2.a.1]

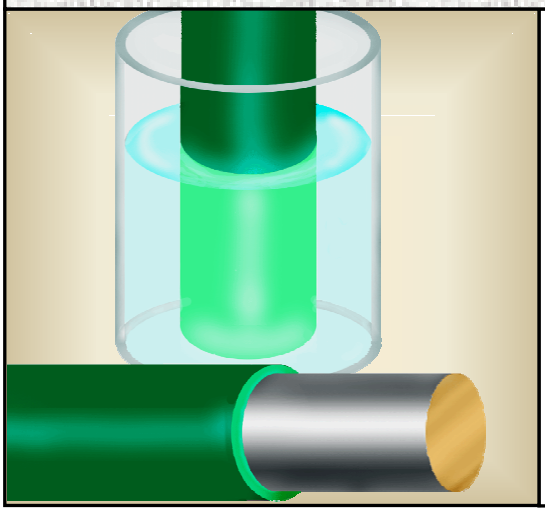


UNACCEPTABLE
BURNED / ETCHED STRANDS

Burned or etched strands are typically caused by current flow (leakage) between the thermal stripper blades, or as a result of stripping an energized conductor.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [6.6.2.b]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]

WIRE PREPARATION
CHEMICAL STRIPPING

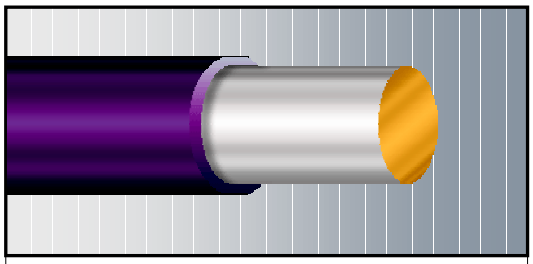


CHEMICAL STRIPPING

Chemical stripping of organic insulation from solid conductors is an alternative to mechanical stripping, especially on small gauge (≤ 28 ga.) conductors. The process is an efficient method to use for complete removal of the insulation, resulting in an exposed, clean, solderable conductor surface.

Chemical stripper agents range in degrees of aggressiveness, towards both the insulation material and the conductor metallization.

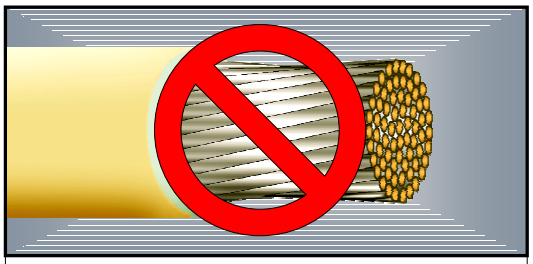
See Section 1.01 “Wire Preparation, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The insulation jacket has been neatly removed, with no damage to the conductor or insulation. No wicking of stripper or cleaner agents under the insulation jacket is evident.

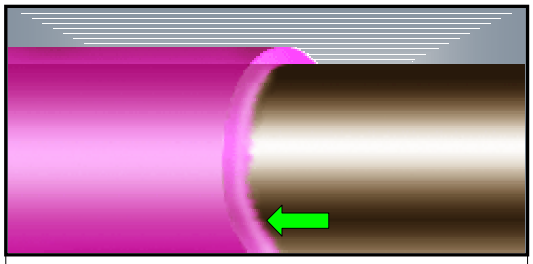
Note: Chemical stripping is suitable for solid conductors only.



UNACCEPTABLE
INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCTOR TYPES

Chemical stripping of other than solid, single-conductor wire (i.e.: coaxial cable, flat cable, multi-conductor cable, ribbon cable, shielded, stranded, etc.) is prohibited.

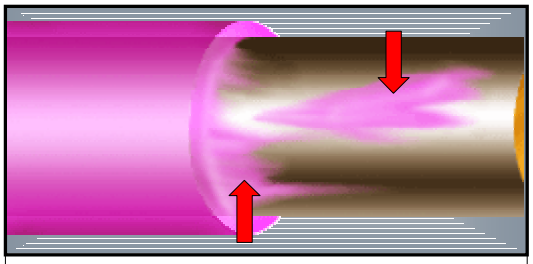
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH / SMEARING

Edge flash shall not exceed one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d). Edge flash and smearing (as depicted) is considered normal, and should not contaminate or interfere with a crimped or soldered termination.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]

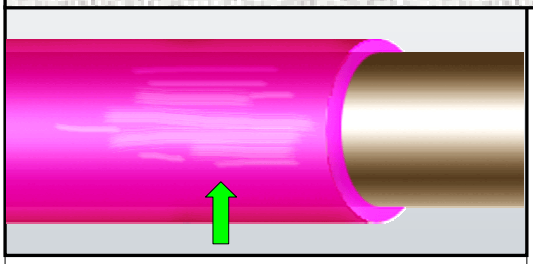


UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH / SMEARING

The edge flash is in excess of one-quarter insulated wire diameter (¼ d), and the stripped section exhibits smearing (melted insulation / film) which is considered a contaminant.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.6]

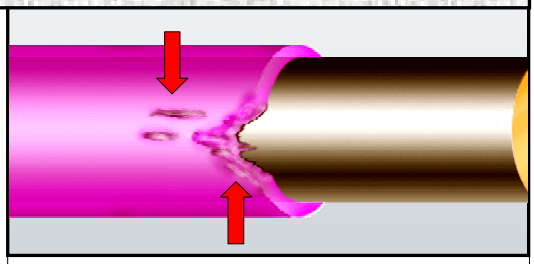
WIRE PREPARATION
CHEMICAL STRIPPING (cont.)



ACCEPTABLE
SCUFFED INSULATION / JACKET

Slight scuffing (a dull or rubbed appearance) of the insulation surface finish is acceptable, provided no other damage is evident.

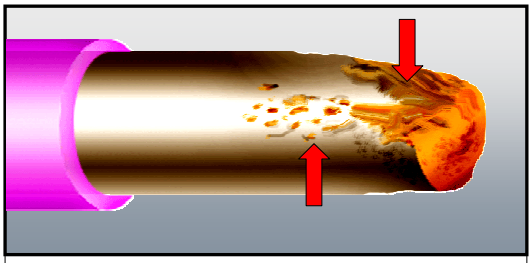
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION / JACKET

The conductor insulation and/or cable jacket shall not exhibit any damage, such as nicks, cuts, or charring. Conductors / jackets exhibiting damage (other than minor scuffing) shall not be used.

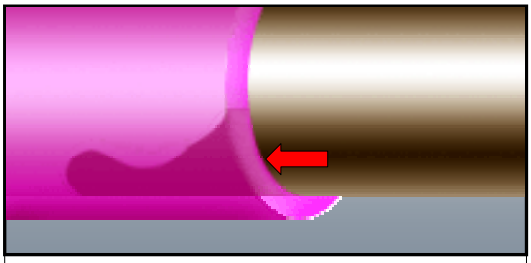
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURNS / CORROSION / PITTING

Burns, corrosion, and pitting are typically caused by the use of an extremely aggressive or chemically incompatible stripping agent, or excessive exposure.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]

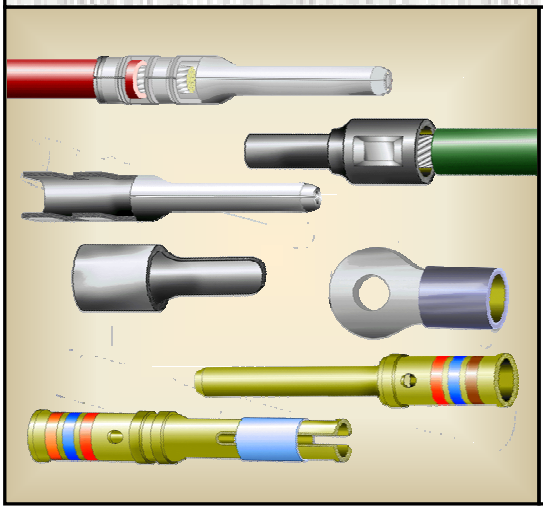


UNACCEPTABLE
WICKING

Wicking of chemical stripping and/or cleaning agents under the insulation jacket is a long-term reliability concern.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.9]

CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

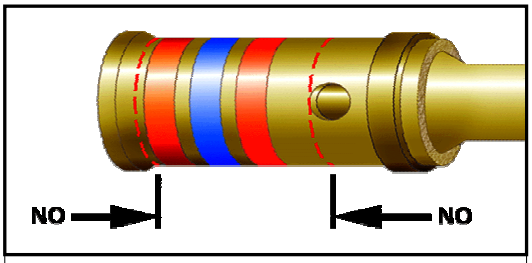


CRIMPED TERMINATIONS

Crimping is an efficient and highly reliable method to assemble and terminate conductors, and typically provides a stronger, more reliable termination method than that achieved by soldering.

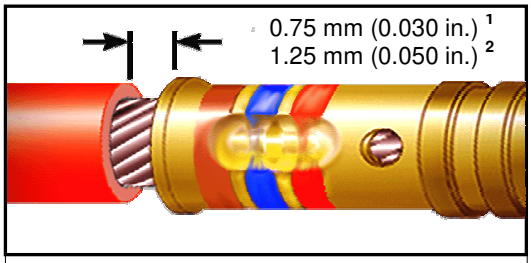
Crimp terminations are available in different styles, depending upon the design application and connectivity requirements.

This section details the generic accept / reject criteria of commonly used crimp termination styles. See 2.02 – 2.10 for specific accept / reject criteria applicable to individual crimp styles.



CRIMP LOCATIONS
(ALL CRIMP TYPES)

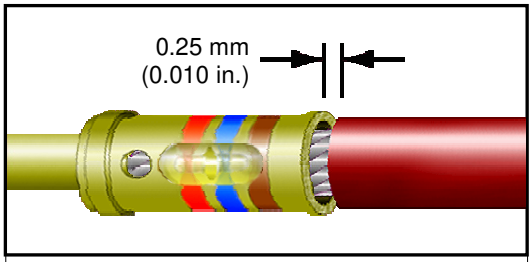
Crimp indents should be centered between the wire entry shoulder of the crimp barrel and the inspection hole / wire exit shoulder. Crimp indents shall not encroach on the wire entry shoulder or the inspection hole / wire exit shoulder.



MAXIMUM INSULATION CLEARANCE
(ALL CRIMP TYPES)

1. For conductors 20 AWG and smaller, the maximum clearance is 0.75 mm (0.030 in.).
2. For 18AWG and larger conductors, the maximum clearance is 1.25 mm (0.05 in.).

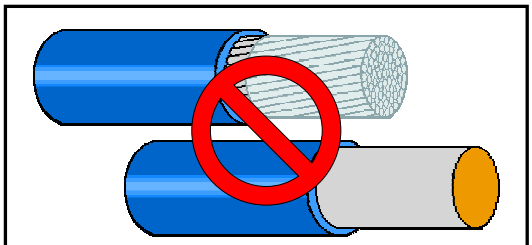
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.7.b.2], [19.6.2.c.9]



MINIMUM INSULATION CLEARANCE
(ALL CRIMP TYPES)

The minimum insulation clearance for all crimped connections is 0.25 mm (0.010 in.).

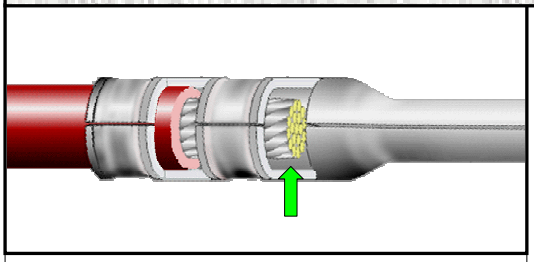
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.7.b.1], [19.6.2.c.9]



SOLDER-TINNED STRANDED WIRE
SOLID WIRE

Crimping of solid wire, component leads, or stranded wire that has been solder-tinned, is prohibited.

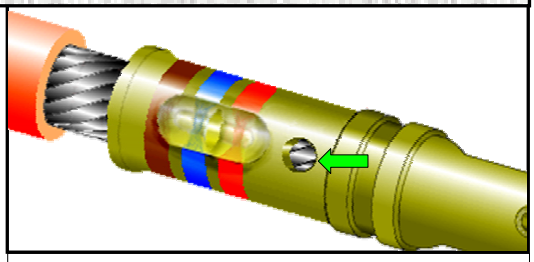
NASA-STD-8739.4 [4.3.4]



WIRE ENDS VISIBLE
(LUG / OPEN BARREL CRIMPS)

The wire ends shall be visible. The conductor should extend a minimum of even with, and a maximum of one wire diameter beyond, the conductor crimp edge.

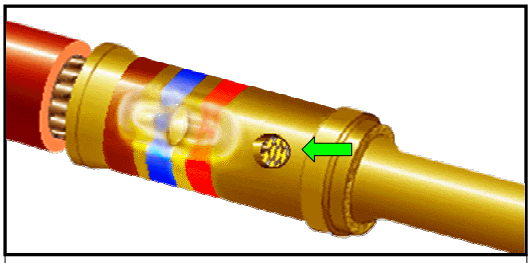
Best Workmanship Practice



WIRE STRANDS VISIBLE
(PIN / CLOSED BARREL CRIMPS)

The wire strands shall be visible in the inspection hole, indicating that the conductor is properly inserted. Preferably, the wire end should be bottomed in the crimp barrel.

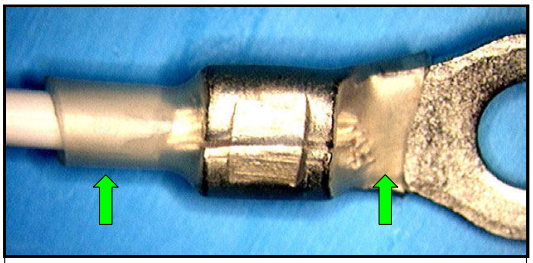
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE (MINIMUM)
WIRE ENDS VISIBLE
(PIN / CLOSED BARREL CRIMPS)

At a minimum, the ends of the wire strands shall be visible in the inspection hole, indicating that the conductor has been properly inserted in the crimp barrel.

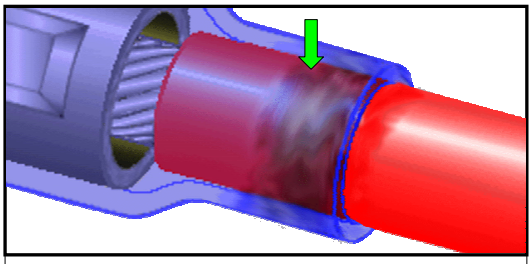
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE
HEAT SHRINK INSTALLATION

Tubing is tight, symmetrical, undamaged (slight discoloration is acceptable). Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing and provide strain relief. Termination is visible and inspectable.

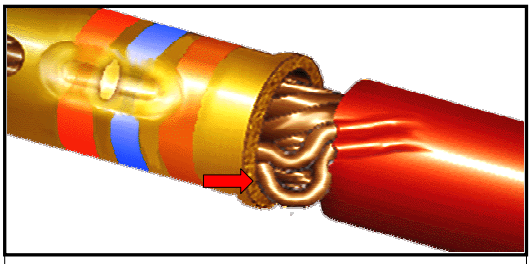
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.9]



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION

Slight discoloration of the shrink tubing is acceptable. Evidence of burning or charring is not acceptable.

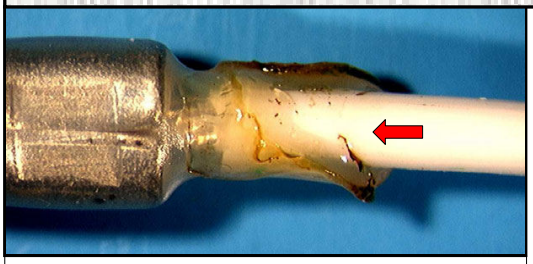
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BIRDCAGED STRANDS

Birdcaged strands reduce the conductor's overall strength and increase the possibility of shorting.

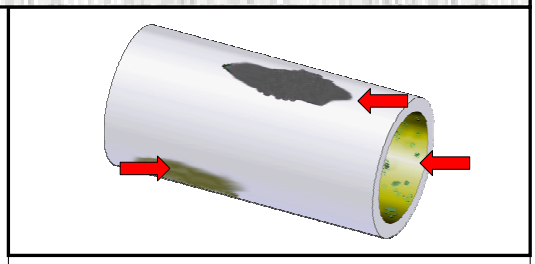
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHARRED / SPLIT HEAT SHRINK

The heat shrink tubing has been exposed to excessive heat, resulting in charring and splitting of the sleeve and possible damage to the conductor. Slight discoloration is acceptable.

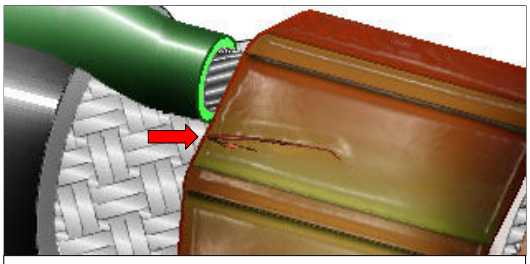
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Tarnish, corrosion, and/or contamination reduces the reliability of the crimp contact.

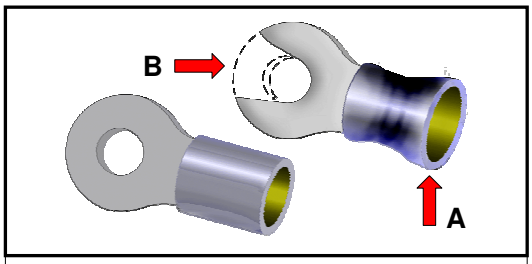
NASA-STD-8739.4 [12.2.2], [19.6.2.c.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRIMP BARREL CRACKS

Cracks in the crimp barrel reduce the mechanical reliability of the conductor-crimp termination.

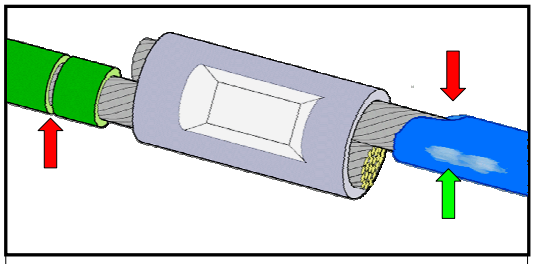
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRIMP MODIFIED TO FIT

Modifying the crimp, to accommodate an undersized / oversized conductor (A) or termination (B), reduces the mechanical strength and reliability of the conductor-crimp termination.

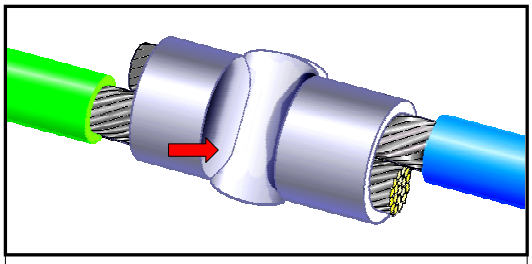
NASA-STD-8739.4 [4.3.5.a], [12.3.3], [19.6.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION

Cut, crushed, gouged, damaged, or nicked insulation may result in reduced electrical isolation and/or short circuits. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

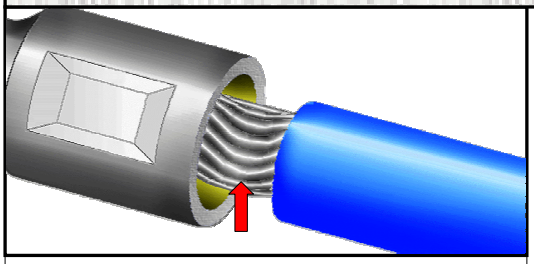
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
DEFORMED CRIMP

A damaged or deformed crimp indicates the use of an incorrect crimp positioner, and/or improper insertion into the crimp tool.

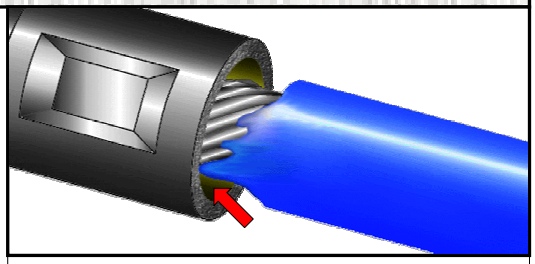
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISTURBED LAY

Disturbing the lay of wire strands during crimping may reduce the reliability of the crimp termination.

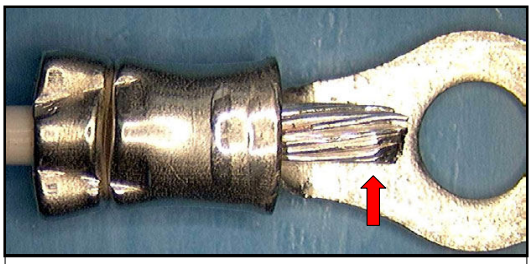
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE FLASH / INSULATION WHISKERS

Excessive edge flash or insulation whiskers that extend into the conductor crimp section may interfere with the proper mechanical and electrical termination of the crimp.

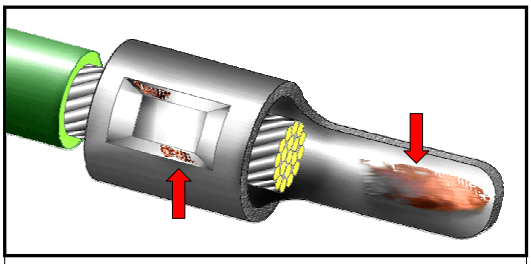
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The conductor should extend a minimum of flush with, and a maximum of one (1) wire diameter beyond the conductor crimp edge.

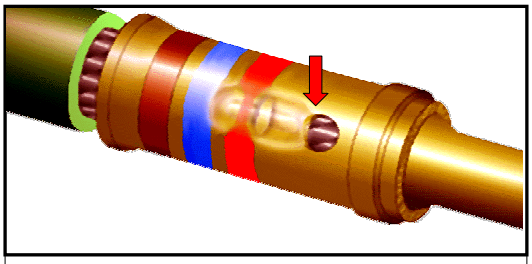
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Exposed base metal reduces the reliability of the crimp.

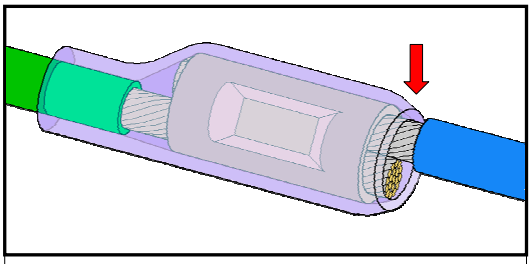
NASA-STD-8739.4 [12.2.5], [19.6.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER CRIMP LOCATION
(INSPECTION HOLE)

The indents shall not encroach on or distort the inspection hole.

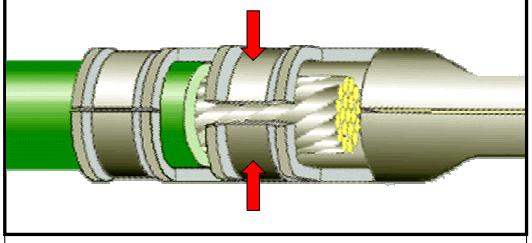
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HEAT SHRINK LENGTH

Heat shrink tubing conforms to the crimp outline, but does not extend over the wire to provide any sealing or strain relief to the conductor.

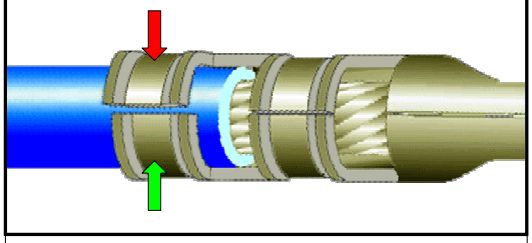
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE CONDUCTOR CRIMP

An incomplete or improper conductor crimp will produce a conductor-crimp termination with reduced mechanical strength and reduced reliability.

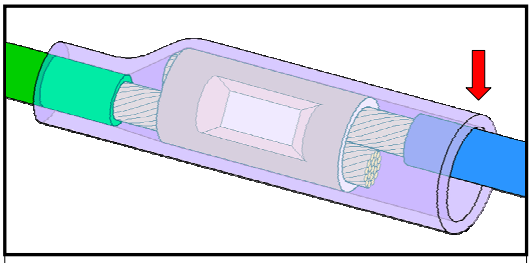
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE INSULATION CRIMP (MULTIPLE CRIMP PINS / SOCKETS)

An incomplete or improperly set insulation crimp will produce a termination with reduced mechanical strength and reduced reliability.

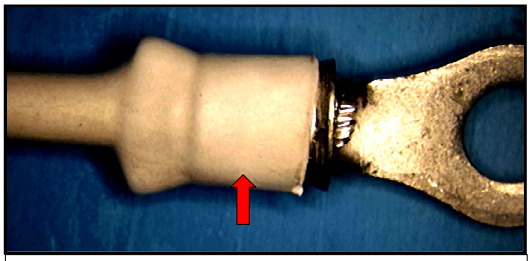
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SHRINKAGE

The heat shrink tubing conforms to the crimp outline and extends over the wire the proper length, but does not follow the contour of the wire, or provide any sealing or strain relief.

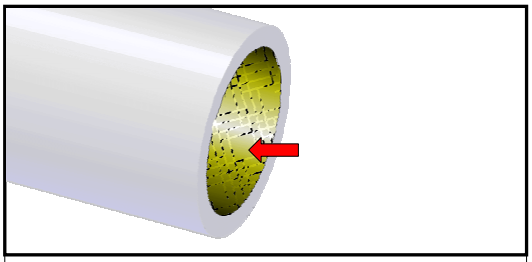
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
OPAQUE HEAT SHRINK

Heat shrink tubing is opaque, prohibiting visual inspection of the termination. Heat shrink tubing shall be transparent or translucent, allowing visual inspection of termination.

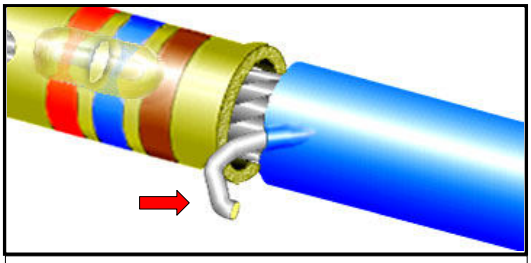
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PEELING / FLAKING PLATING

A contact exhibiting peeling or flaking plating indicates a component of questionable quality and, shall be rejected.

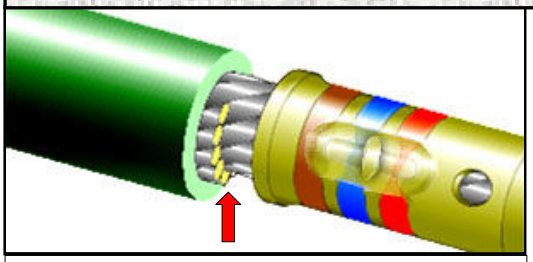
NASA-STD-8739.4 [12.2.3], [19.6.2.c.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
PROTRUDING STRANDS

Protruding strands reduce the current capacity of the termination, and present a puncture, sharp object damage, or shorting risk.

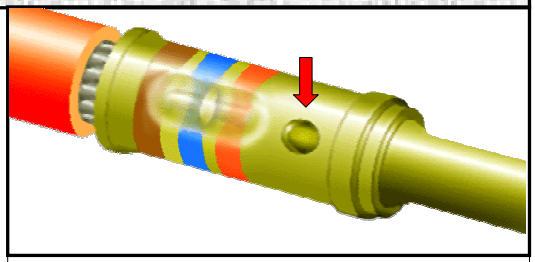
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
WIRE MODIFIED TO FIT

Modifying wires to fit the crimp barrel reduces the current carrying capacity and mechanical reliability of the conductor-crimp termination.

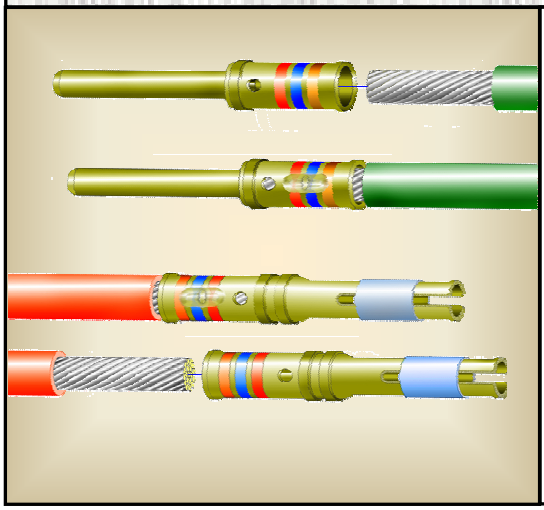
NASA-STD-8739.4 [4.3.5.a], [12.3.3], [19.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
WIRE STRANDS NOT VISIBLE
(PIN / CLOSED BARREL CRIMPS)

Wire strands not visible in the inspection hole indicate that the conductor may not be properly inserted and shall be cause for rejection.

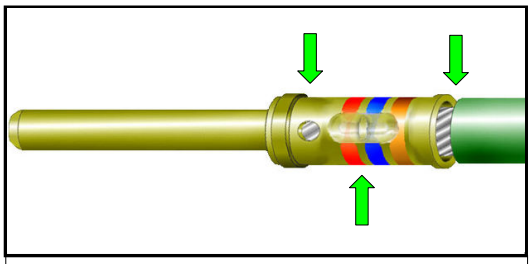
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.4]



CRIMP PINS & SOCKETS

The most common version of crimp terminations used in aerospace and military harness assemblies is the “pin and socket”.

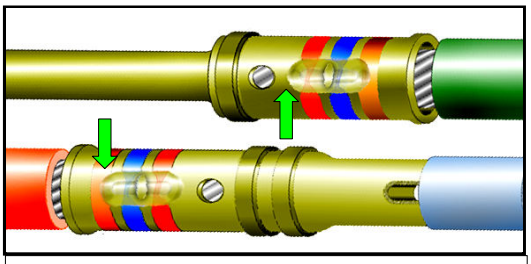
See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents symmetrical and centered between the inspection hole and the wire entry shoulder. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strands are visible in the inspection hole. Proper insulation spacing.

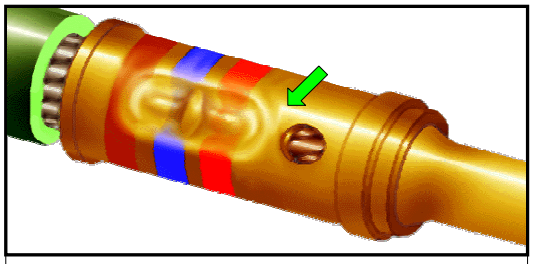
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
CRIMP LOCATION – VIEW 1

The indents are at the maximum allowable positions (adjacent to the crimp boundary), but will not encroach on or distort the wire entry shoulder of the crimp barrel and the inspection hole if the contact is rotated (see view 2).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
CRIMP LOCATION – VIEW 2

The indent is located adjacent to the inspection hole, but does not encroach on or distort the inspection hole.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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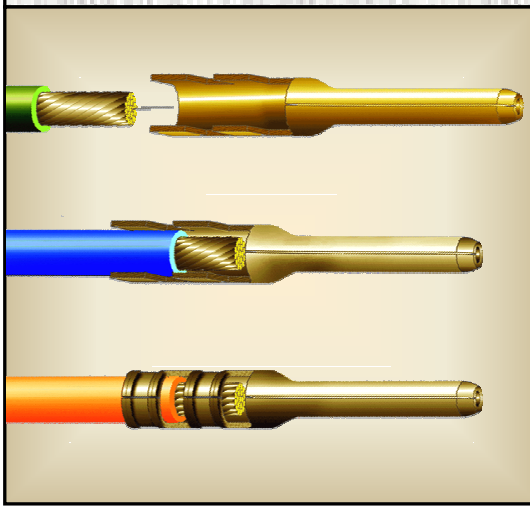
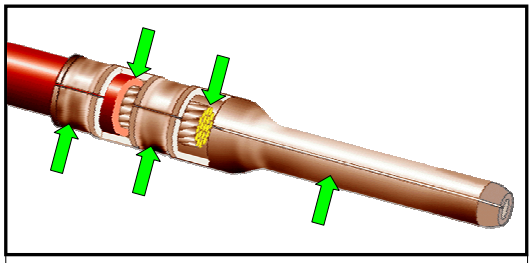


MULTIPLE CRIMP PINS & SOCKETS

Multiple crimp pins and sockets are characterized by the presence of separate crimp devices to secure the conductor and the insulation jacket.

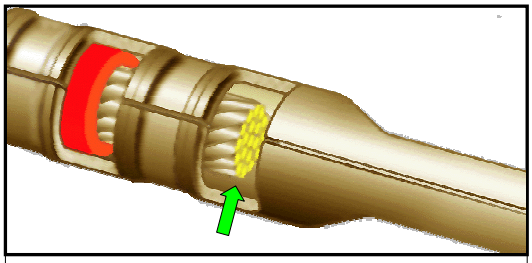
The conductor crimp grips the conductor to complete the electrical termination. The insulation crimp grips the insulation jacket to provide strain-relief to the termination.

See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

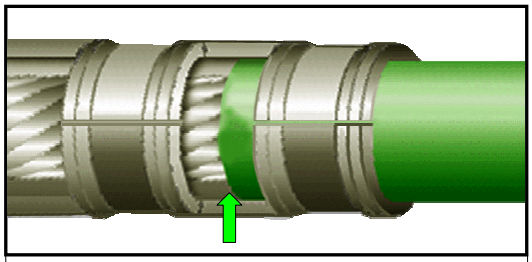
Insulation and conductor crimps are properly set and exhibit proper insulation and conductor spacing. Wire strands visible. No exposed base metal or mechanical damage.



PREFERRED
CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The conductor should extend a minimum of flush with, and a maximum of one (1) wire diameter beyond, the conductor crimp edge.

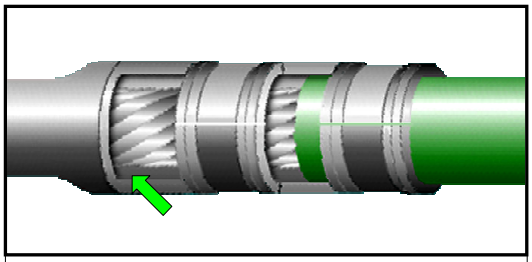
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
INSULATION LENGTH

The insulation should extend approximately midway between the insulation crimp and the conductor crimp.

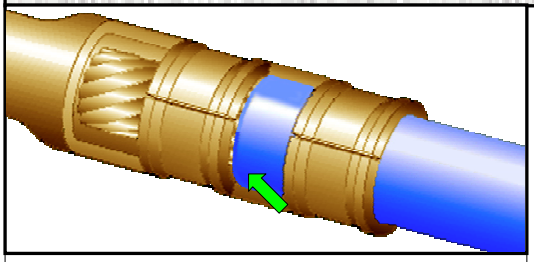
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
EXCESS CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The conductor may extend into the pin or socket barrel, provided the excess conductor length does not interfere with the mechanical and electrical mating of the pin and/or socket.

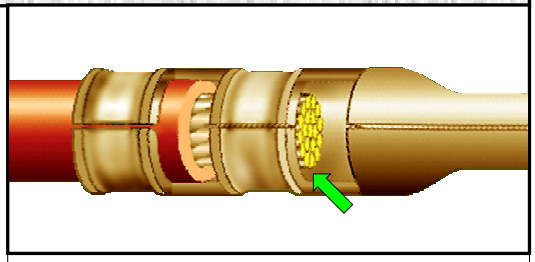
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
EXCESS INSULATION LENGTH

The insulation may extend to the leading edge of the conductor crimp, provided it can be determined visually that the insulation does not enter the conductor crimp.

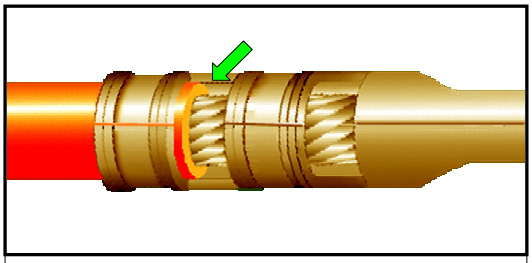
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The conductor should extend a minimum of flush with the conductor crimp edge.

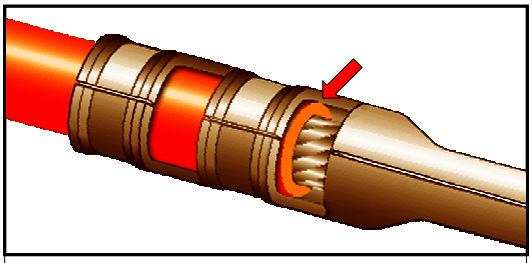
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM INSULATION LENGTH

At a minimum, the insulation edge may be flush with the trailing edge of the insulation crimp.

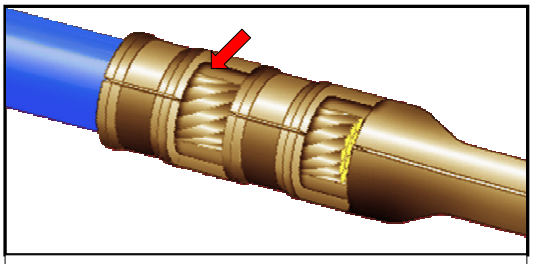
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSULATION ENCROACHMENT

Insulation encroachment into the conductor crimp section may interfere with the proper mechanical and electrical termination of the crimp.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.9]

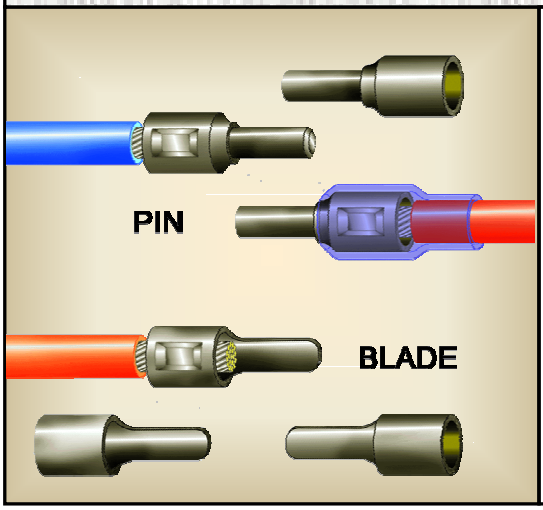


UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

The insulation jacket must extend beyond the edge of the insulation crimp, and the crimp must fully engage the jacket to ensure proper strain-relief to the termination.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.c.9]

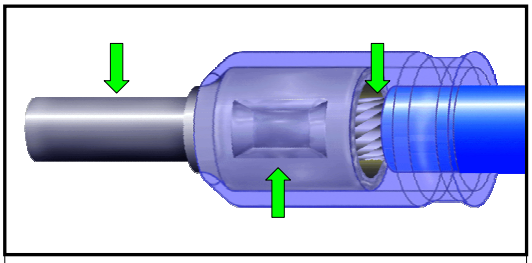
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
BLADE / PIN TERMINALS



BLADE / PIN TERMINALS

Blade / Pin terminals are used to dress and terminate a conductor for insertion into a wire termination block (strip), providing a finished / non-fraying end to the conductor.

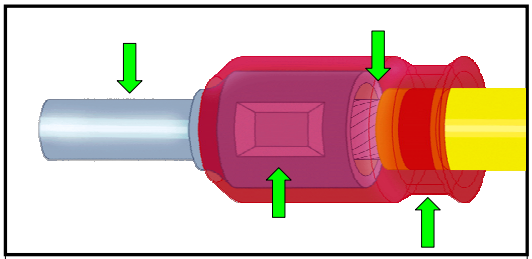
See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Proper insulation spacing (C).

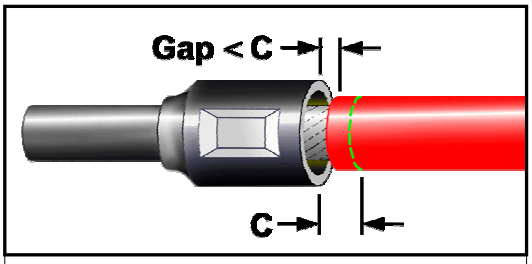
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimp is properly set to provide appropriate strain relief. No exposed base metal. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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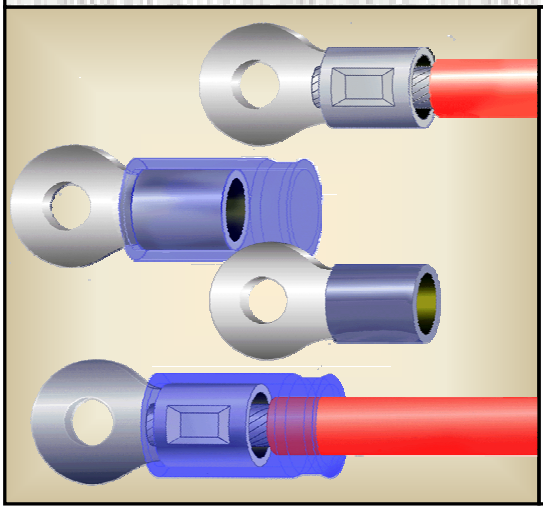
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
RING LUG TERMINALS

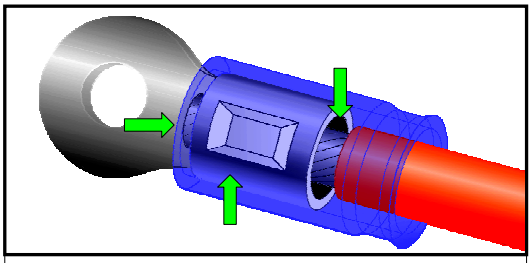


RING LUG TERMINALS

Ring lug terminals are used to dress and terminate a conductor in a configuration requiring a mechanically captured connection to a termination point or post.

The “capture” feature of a ring lug prevents the terminal from falling off the termination post, even if the compression nut has loosened. This additional security feature may be beneficial in high vibration applications.

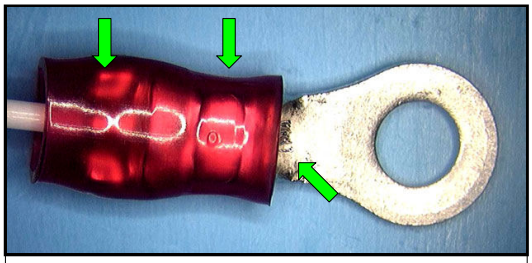
See Section 2.01, “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

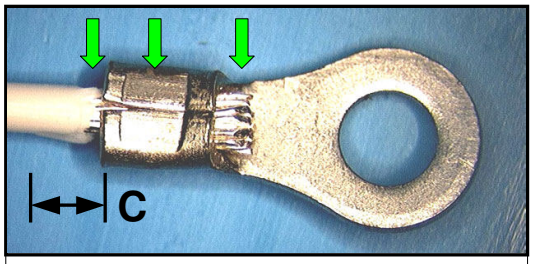
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimp is properly set to provide appropriate strain relief. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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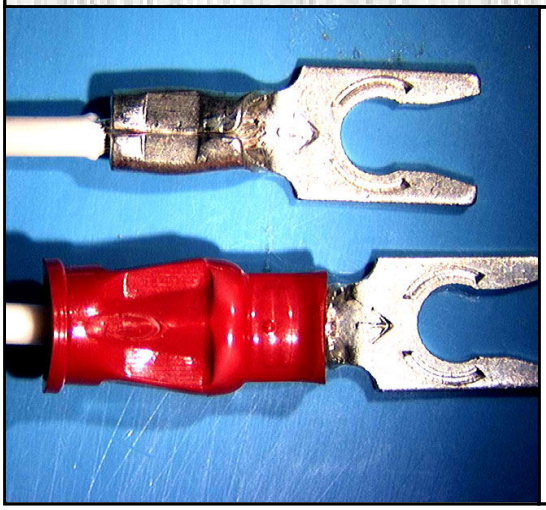
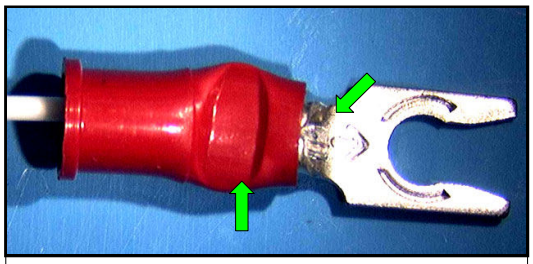
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
SPADE LUG TERMINALS



SPADE LUG TERMINALS

Spade lug terminals are used to dress and terminate a conductor to a termination point or post with a mechanically secure, "partially captured" connection. The "partially captured" feature allows the terminal to be removed from a termination post without completely removing the compression nut (as is required with ring lugs). This security feature may be beneficial in moderate vibration environments where there is a requirement for the termination to be disconnected.

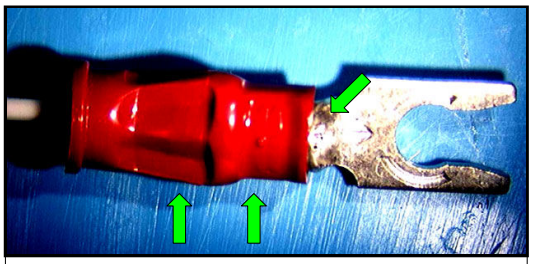
See Section 2.01 "Crimped Terminations – General Requirements" for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

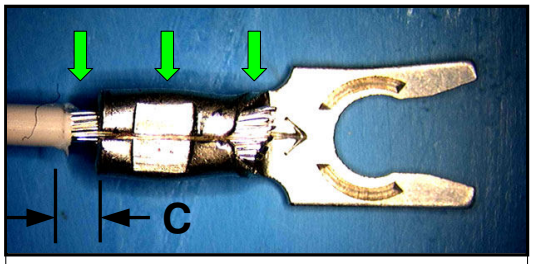
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimp is properly set to provide appropriate strain relief. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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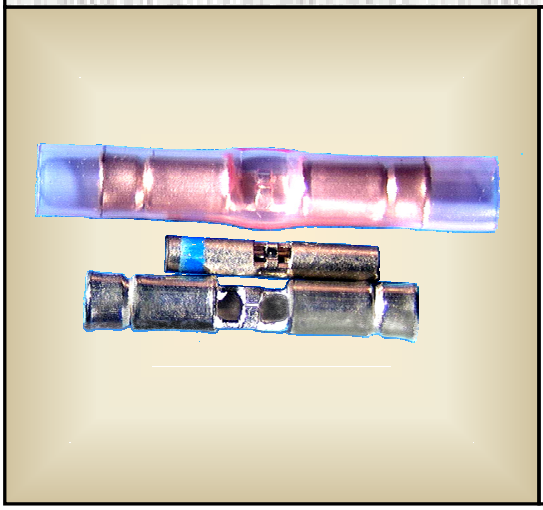
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
BUTT SPLICES



BUTT SPLICES

Butt splices are used to dress and terminate multiple conductors of the same or different gauges in an end-to-end or series configuration.

See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.

PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

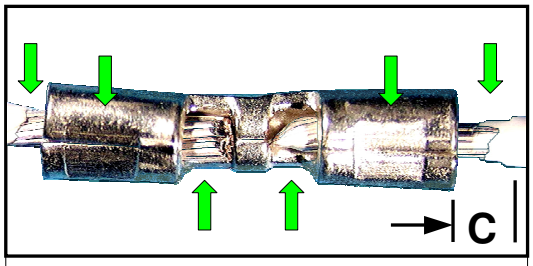
The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimp is properly set, providing appropriate strain relief. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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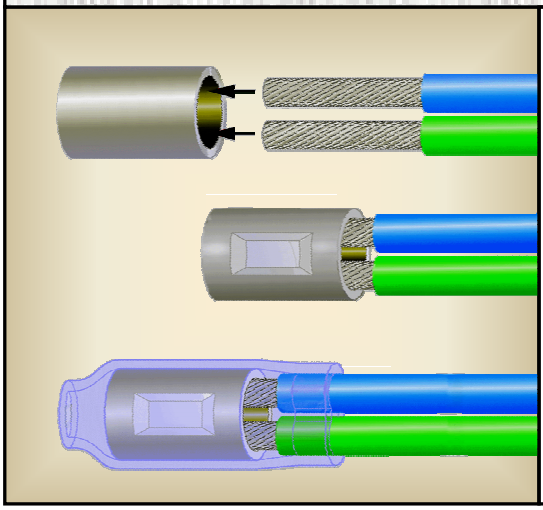
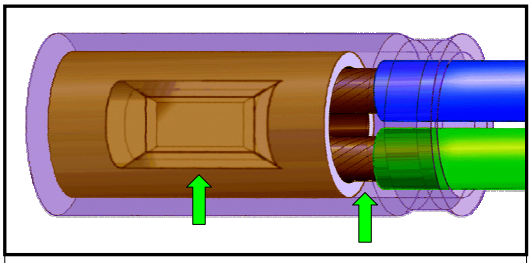
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
END SPLICES



END SPLICES

End Splices are used to terminate two or more conductors in a “pig-tail” configuration, and to “dead-end” a single conductor. They can be used as inline splices if proper strain relief is provided.

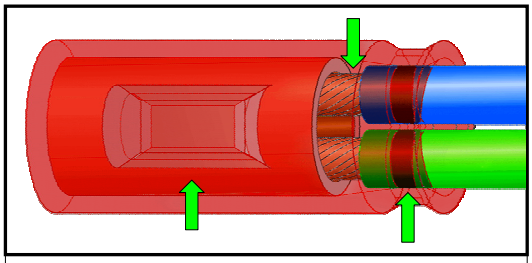
See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Proper insulation spacing (C).

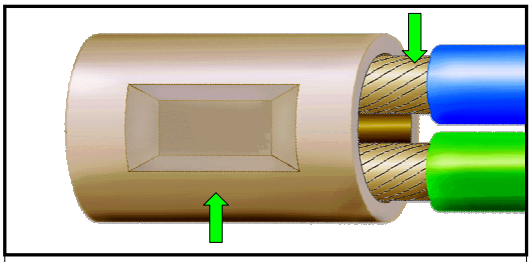
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimp is properly set to provide appropriate strain relief. No exposed base metal. Proper insulation spacing (C).

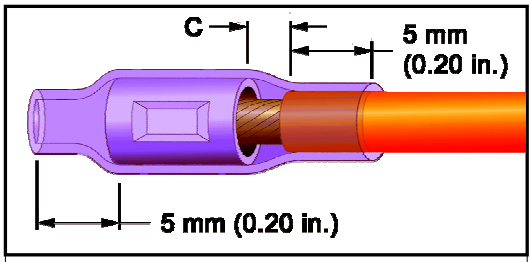
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Proper insulation spacing (C).

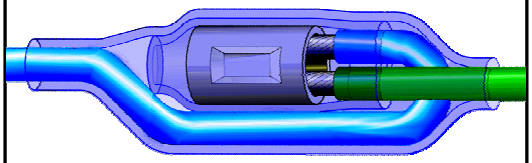
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
DEAD-END CONFIGURATION

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Proper insulation spacing (C). Shrink tubing has been properly installed.

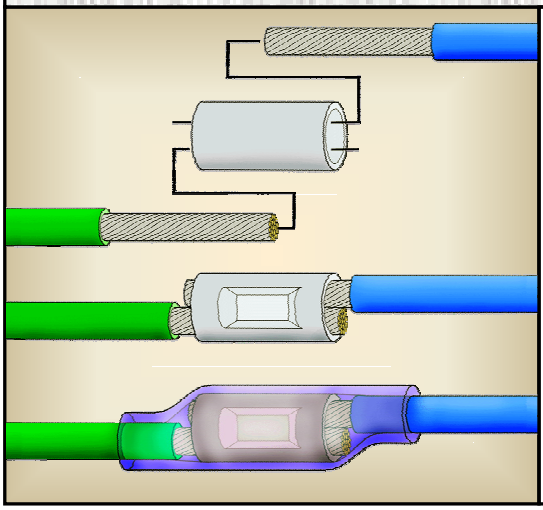
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
INLINE CONFIGURATION

Tubing is tight and symmetrical. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing, while providing strain relief. The termination is visible. Conductor(s) exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief.

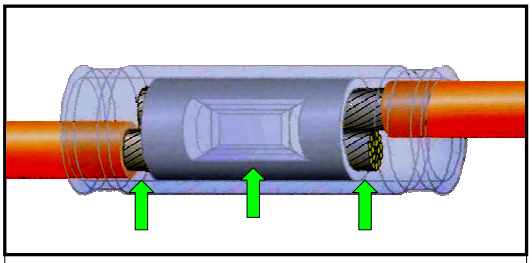
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PARALLEL SPLICES

Parallel splices are used to dress and terminate multiple conductors, of the same or different gauges, in a parallel configuration.

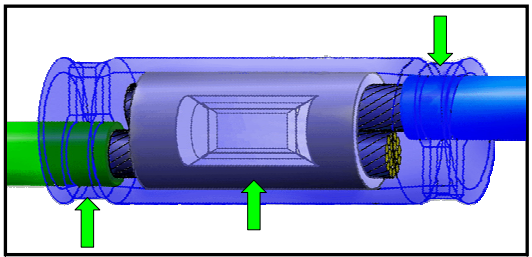
See Section 2.01 “Crimped Terminations – General Requirements” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
SINGLE CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

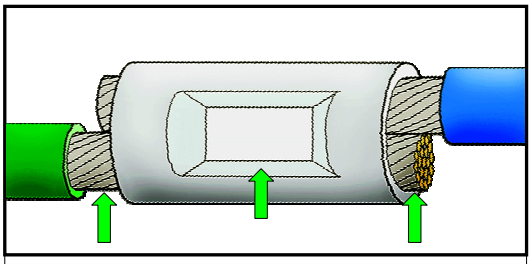
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
DUAL CRIMP INSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and properly located. Insulation crimps are properly set to provide appropriate strain relief. No exposed base metal. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]

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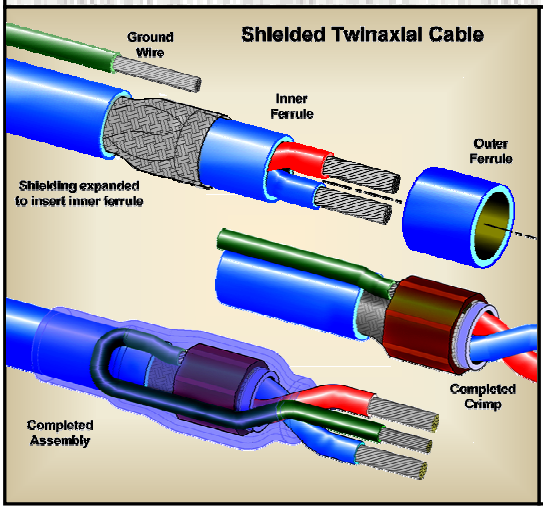
CRIMPED TERMINATIONS
SHIELD CRIMPS



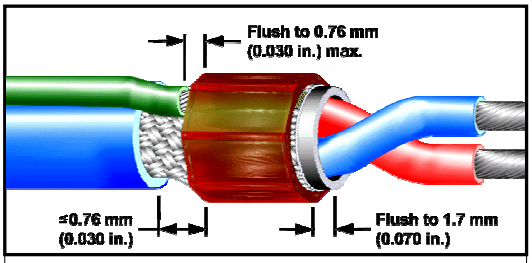
SHIELD CRIMPS

Shield Crimps are used to mechanically "finish" the end of individually shielded cables.

For ground shield terminations, the crimp assembly will have a grounding wire attachment, allowing the cable shield to be electrically terminated to ground.

For floating shield terminations, the crimp assembly will be completed without the ground wire attachment.

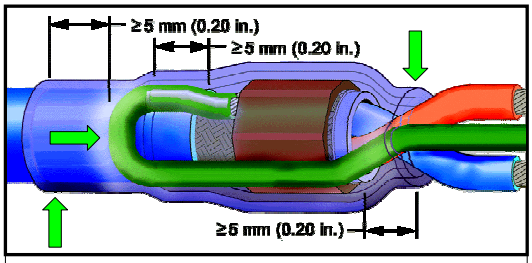
See Section 2.01 "Crimped Terminations – General Requirements" for common accept / reject criteria.



ACCEPTABLE
INTERIM ASSEMBLY VIEW

Outer crimp ring has been deformed only by tool indenters, with indents properly located and symmetrical. Inner crimp ring has not been deformed. No exposed base metal. Ground wire has proper insulation spacing, and end is visible.

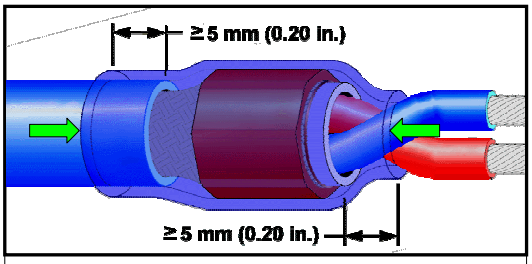
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



ACCEPTABLE
GROUND SHIELD TERMINATION

Heat shrink sections are properly installed, tightly shrunk, and the termination is visible. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing. Ground wire exhibits proper bend radius and strain relief.

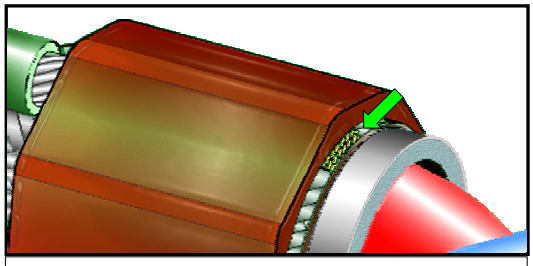
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22], [9.8.1], [9.9], [11.5], [19.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
FLOATING SHIELD TERMINATION

Heat shrink tubing is properly installed, tightly shrunk, and the termination is visible. Overlaps are of sufficient length to meet minimum electrical spacing.

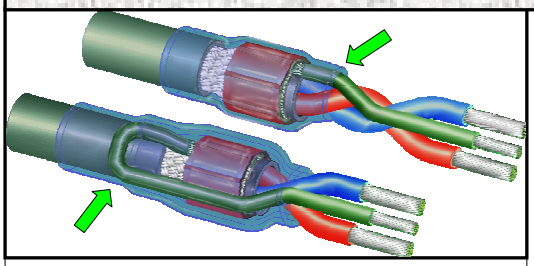
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.9], [11.5], [19.6.1]



MANDATORY
GROUND WIRE OVERHANG

The end of the ground wire shall be flush with the outer ferrule edge, but shall not overhang the inner ferrule edge.

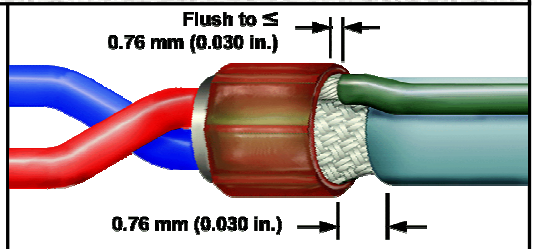
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



PREFERRED
GROUND WIRE ORIENTATION

The ground wire should be dressed to the rear of the crimp termination, to allow the inclusion of a stress relief loop in the completed assembly. The ground wire may also dress forward, provided sufficient stress relief is provided.

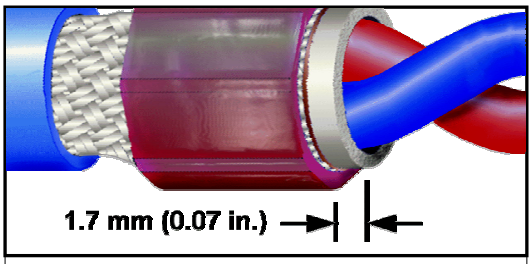
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



ACCEPTABLE
GROUND WIRE INSULATION GAP

The ground wire insulation gap shall be ≤ 0.76 mm (0.030 in.). The minimum gap shall be flush with the edge of the outer crimp ring.

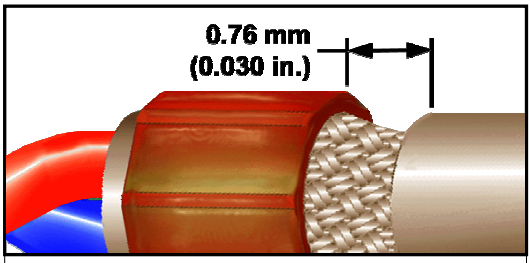
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



ACCEPTABLE
INNER / OUTER FERRULE SPACING

The inner ferrule may extend a minimum of flush with, and a maximum of 1.7 mm (0.07 in.) beyond, the front edge of the outer ferrule.

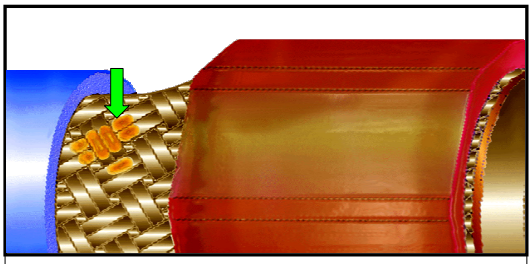
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



ACCEPTABLE
MIN. / MAX. SHIELD / BRAID GAP

Min.: The placement of the crimp rings shall be such that the dress of the shield stranding is not subjected to flexure stress or tensile load.
Max.: The maximum shield gap shall not exceed 0.76 mm (0.030 in.).

NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



ACCEPTABLE
NICKED SHIELD STRANDS

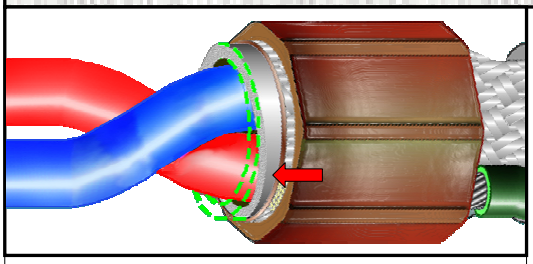
Nicked shield strands shall not exceed 10% of the total number of strands.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.b.2]

UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE GROUND CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The ground wire end shall be flush with the outer ferrule edge, but shall not overhang the inner ferrule.

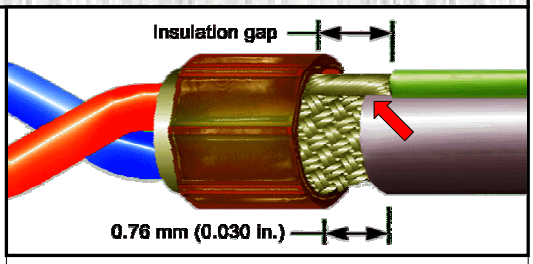
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ALIGNMENT

Improper alignment of the ferrules reduces the reliability of the termination and indicates the use of an incorrect crimp positioner, and/or improper insertion into the crimp tool.

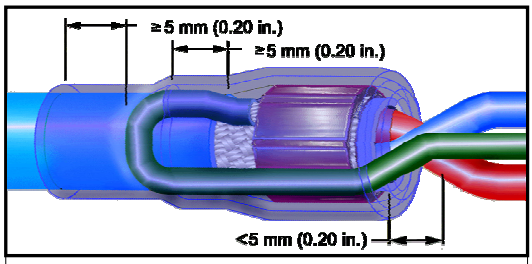
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER GROUND WIRE INSULATION GAP

The ground wire insulation gap shall be ≤ 0.76 mm (0.030 in.). The minimum gap shall be flush with the edge of the outer crimp ring.

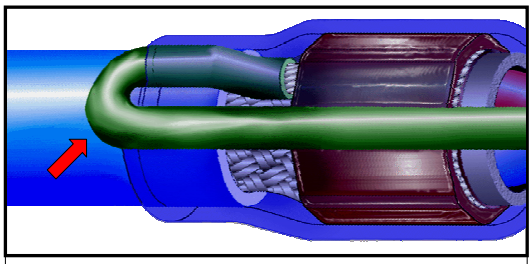
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HEAT SHRINK LENGTH

Heat shrink tubing conforms to crimp outline, but does not extend over the wire to provide any sealing or strain relief.

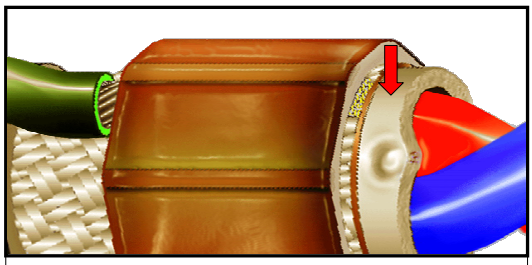
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.9], [19.6.2.b.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF / IMPROPER BENDS

Wiring must be properly dressed to ensure a reliable termination. Wire bends shall meet minimum radius bend requirements.

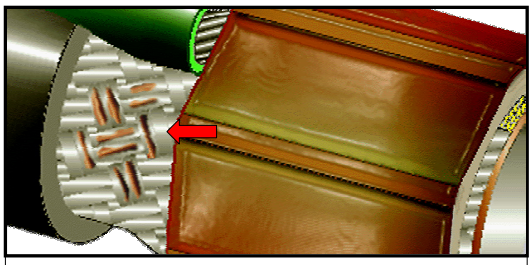
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22]



UNACCEPTABLE
INNER FERRULE DAMAGE / DISTORTION

The inner ferrule shall be sized so that the inward distortion caused by the crimping process will not affect the insulated wires it surrounds.

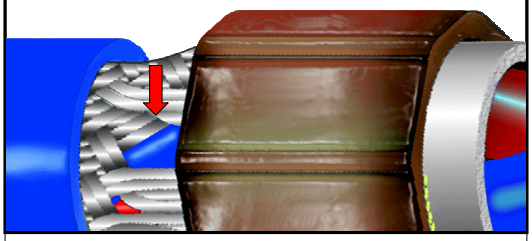
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
NICKED SHIELD STRANDS

Nicked shield strands shall not exceed 10% of the total number of strands.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.b.2]

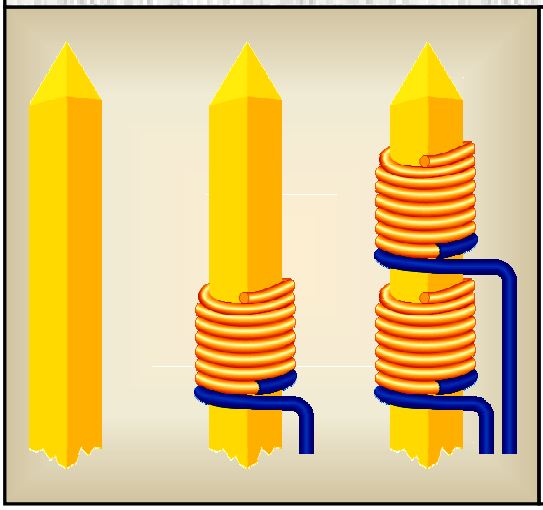


UNACCEPTABLE
UNEVEN SHIELD COVERAGE

The shield braid shall be dressed to provide uniform coverage and dispersion. Uneven coverage may result in electrical interference in sensitive circuits, and may interfere with the reliability of the crimp assembly.

Best Workmanship Practice

DISCRETE WIRING
SOLDERLESS WRAPPED ELECTRICAL CONNECTIONS - WIRE WRAP

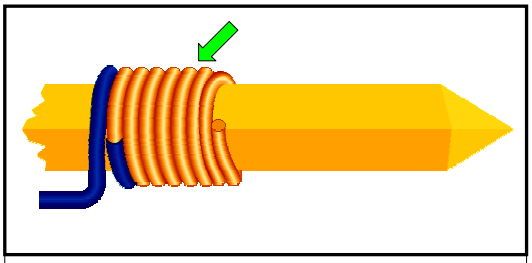


WIRE WRAPPING

Solderless wrapped terminations are made by helically wrapping a solid uninsulated wire, around a specially designed termination post, to produce a mechanically and electrically stable connection.

Class A: **Class A** provides improved vibration characteristics, and is the required wrap style for spaceflight hardware applications. This wrap configuration, requires 1/2 to 1-1/2 turns of insulated wire be in contact with a minimum of three (3) corners of the wrappost, in addition to the uninsulated wraps.

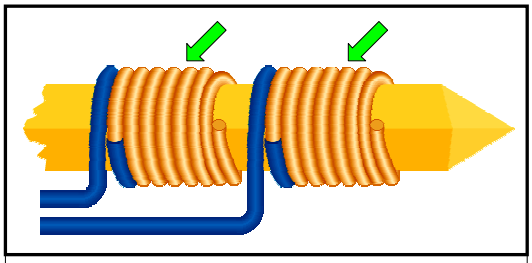
Class B: **Class B** wraps are prohibited.



ACCEPTABLE
CLASS A – SINGLE TERMINATION

The termination has the required number of insulated and uninsulated turns of wire, and is clean and free of foreign material.

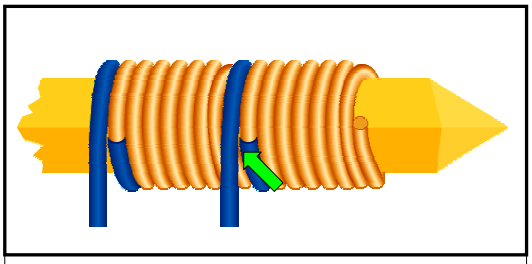
MIL-STD-1130B [4.1]



ACCEPTABLE
CLASS A – MULTIPLE TERMINATIONS

The terminations are properly spaced, with each having the required number of insulated and uninsulated turns of wire, and are clean and free of foreign material.

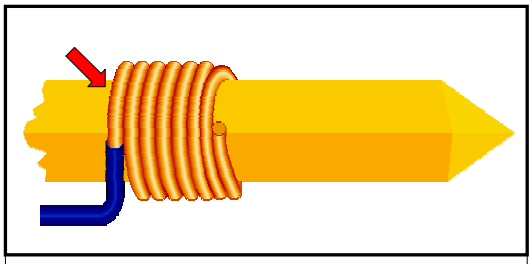
MIL-STD-1130B [4.1]



ACCEPTABLE
OVERLAPPED TURNS

The insulated conductor overwrap does not exceed one (1) turn, and the termination wrap is tight.

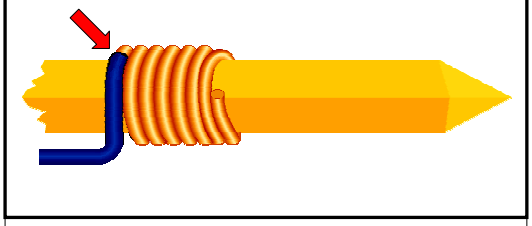
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 b]



UNACCEPTABLE
CLASS B

Class B terminations, characterized by the absence of insulated turns, are prohibited.

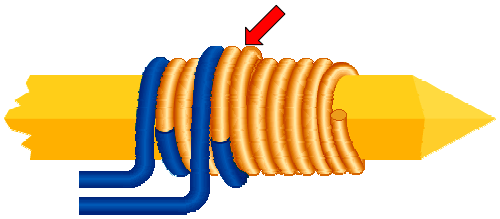
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT INSULATION WRAP

The insulated section of the termination must be in contact with a minimum of three (3) corners of the wrappost.

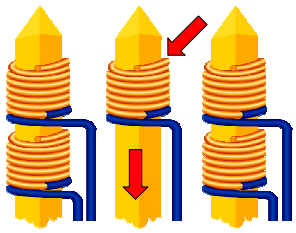
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 a]



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERLAPPING WRAPS

The overlapping wrap must not exceed one (1) complete turn over the last turn of uninsulated wire in a termination directly below it on the wrappost.

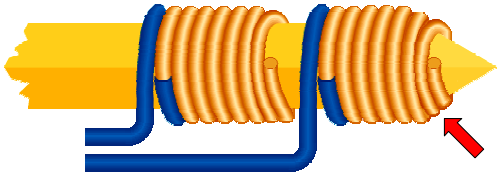
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 b]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER POSITION – SINGLE WRAP

The first wrap should be located as low on the post as practical, providing sufficient space for additional terminations later.

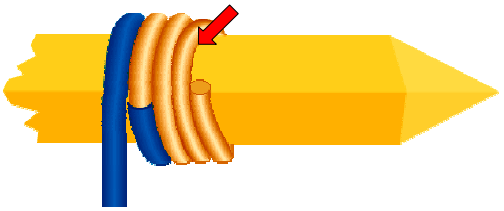
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 b]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER POSITION – MULTIPLE WRAP

Terminations in a multiple wrap configuration must be properly positioned to ensure the wraps are completed within the defined termination area of the wrappost.

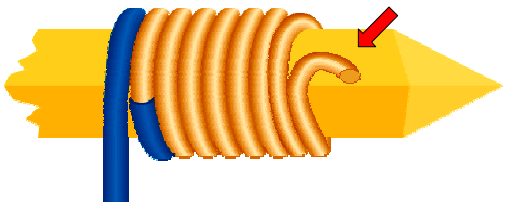
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 b]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT TURNS

The uninsulated section of the termination shall have the minimum number of complete turns, as specified by MIL-STD-1130B, or as noted on the engineering documentation.

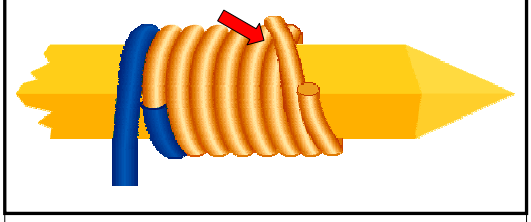
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
END TAIL

An end tail is the end of the last turn of wire that is protruding in a tangential direction from the surface of the wrappost. End tails present a risk of shorting.

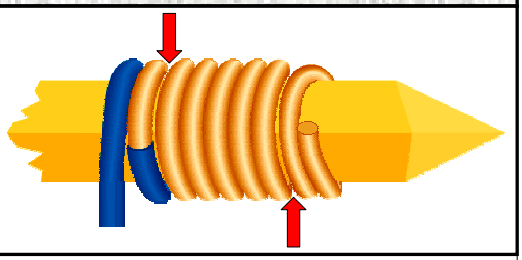
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 d]



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERWRAP

Overlapping wraps reduce the reliability of the termination and may result in severed wraps.

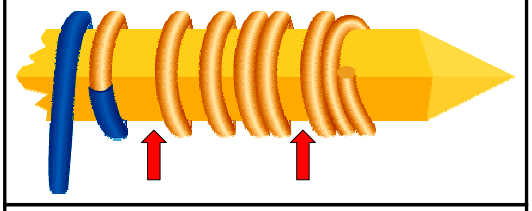
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 j]



UNACCEPTABLE
SPIRAL WRAP

The space between adjacent wrap turns shall not exceed one-half uninsulated conductor diameter. The sum of all gaps shall not exceed one wire diameter, excluding the first and last turn.

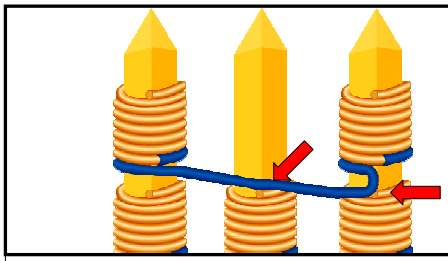
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 f]



UNACCEPTABLE
OPEN WRAP

An open wrap is an indicator of an improper termination process and may reduce the reliability of the termination.

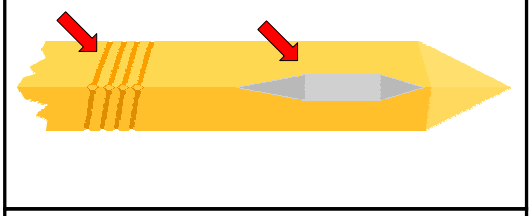
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 f]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ROUTING

The wire shall not be routed in any manner that will tend to unwrap the termination, and shall be routed around and between the wrapposts in a manner that prevents shorting to adjacent wrapposts.

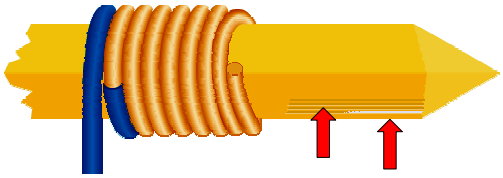
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 g]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED WRAPPOST

The wrappost shall not exhibit evidence of cracking, flaking plating, bending, excessive twisting, gouging, or exposed base metal.

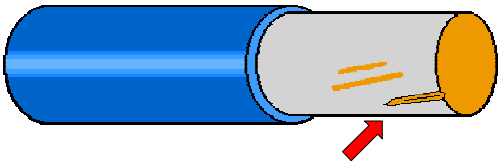
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 a]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED WRAPPOST

The wrappost shall not exhibit evidence of cracking, flaking plating, bending, excessive twisting, gouging, or exposed base metal after wire wrapping.

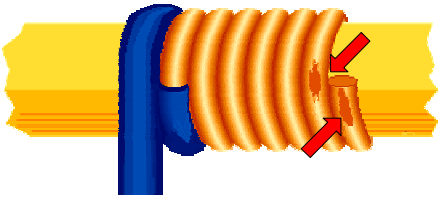
Best Workmanship Practices



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED CONDUCTOR

After removal of the insulation, the conductor shall not exhibit nicks, cuts, exposed base metal, ringing, or reduction of cross-sectional area. Burnishing of the wire surface is acceptable.

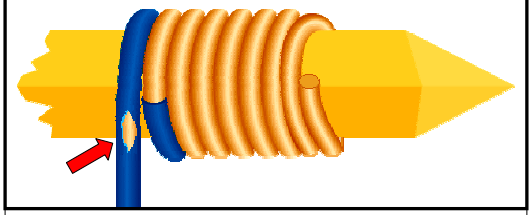
MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED CONDUCTOR

After wrapping, the conductor shall not exhibit nicks, cuts, exposed base metal, ringing, or reduction of cross-sectional area. Burnishing of the wire surface is acceptable.

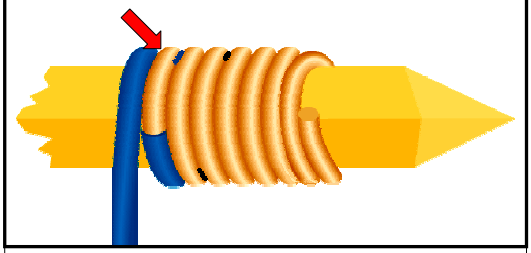
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION

Cut, crushed, gouged, damaged, or nicked insulation may result in reduced electrical isolation and/or short circuits. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

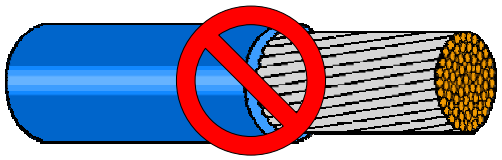
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination reduces the reliability of the termination.

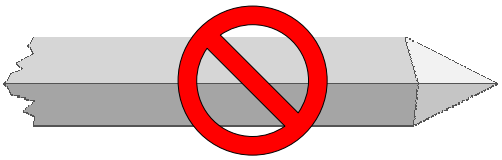
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
STRANDED CONDUCTOR

The use of stranded conductor for wire wrapping is prohibited.

Best Workmanship Practice

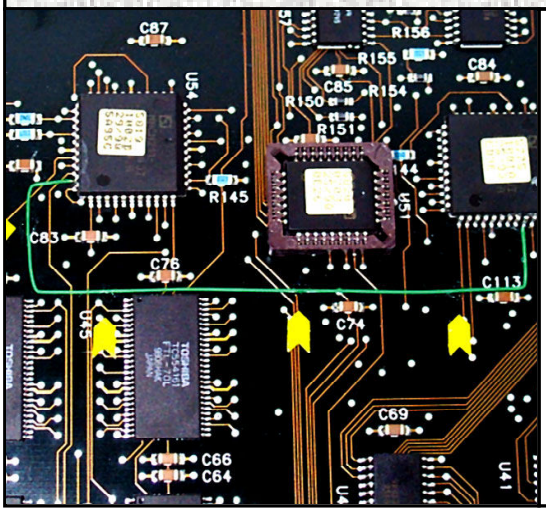


UNACCEPTABLE
SILVER UNDERPLATING

The use of wrapposts with silver underplating is prohibited. Gold plating over nickel is preferred.

MIL-STD-1130B [5.3.2.1 a]

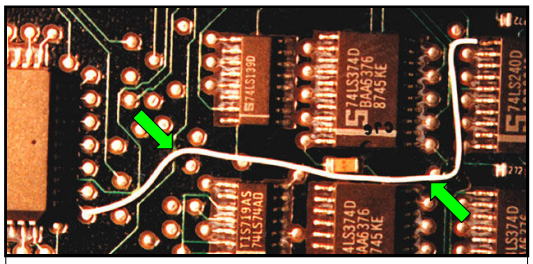
DISCRETE WIRING
JUMPER WIRES



JUMPER WIRES

Jumper wires (a.k.a.: haywires) are used to facilitate minor circuit modifications to printed wiring assemblies (PWA), rather than redesign and manufacture a new board. While their use is an accepted practice, the customer must grant approval prior to their use and installation.

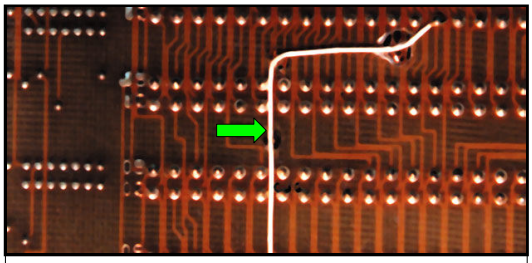
Jumper wires are usually solid, insulated copper conductor with tin/lead plating (i.e.: wire wrap wire), although jumpers less than 25mm (0.984 in.) may be uninsulated, provided the jumper is not liable to short between lands or component leads. Silver-plated and/or stranded wire shall not be used.



PREFERRED
COMPONENT TERMINATION SIDE

Wire route is the shortest path. Wire does not pass over or under components, or pass over any land or via used as a test point. Sufficient slack to allow relocation during component replacement.

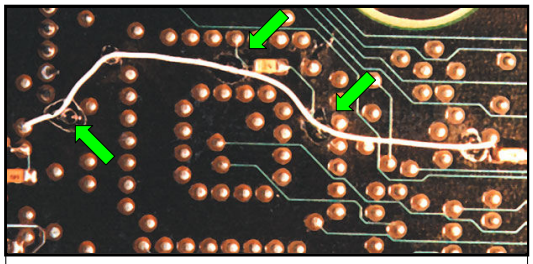
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SOLDER TERMINATION SIDE

Wire route is the shortest path. Wire does not cross component footprints or lands, except where unavoidable. Wire does not pass over any land or via used as a test point.

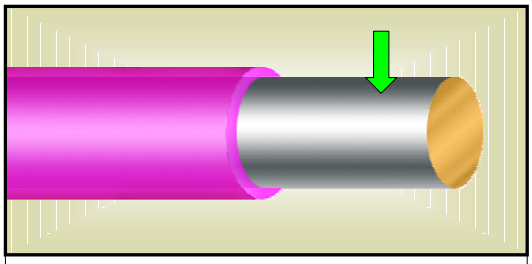
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
STAKING

Jumper wire is staked at intervals specified by engineering documentation. The wire is staked at all changes of direction to restrict movement, and as close to the solder termination as possible.

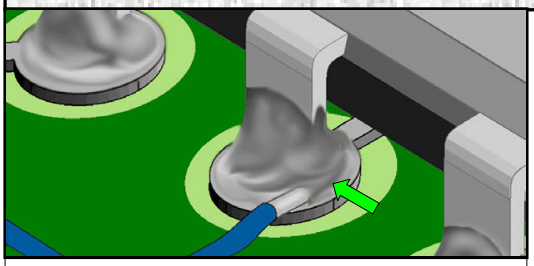
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.4]



MANDATORY
SOLID, INSULATED CONDUCTOR

Jumper wires shall be solid, insulated copper conductor with tin/lead plating (i.e.: wire wrap wire). Stranded, silver-plated wire shall not be used.

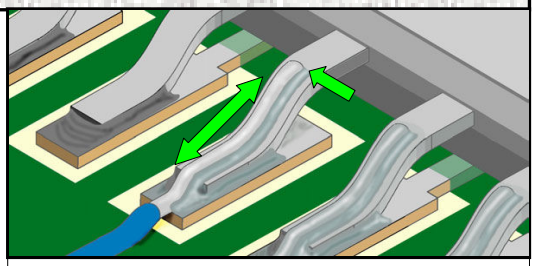
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
COMPONENT LEAD TERMINATION

The termination shall be wrapped a minimum of 90°, exhibit proper insulation clearance, the outline shall be evident in the fillet, and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing.

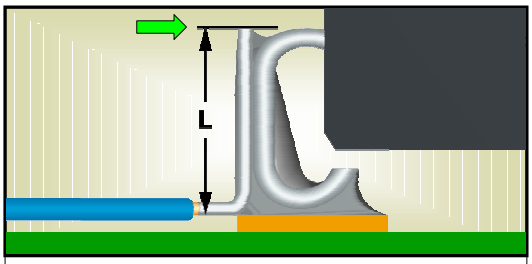
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION, GULL WING SMT

The jumper wire termination shall be a minimum of 75% of the lead length, as measured between the toe and knee, and shall not extend past the top of the component body.

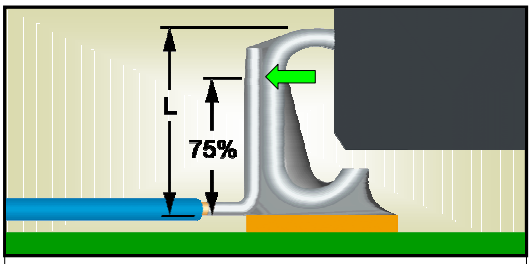
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
LAP TERMINATION, J-LEAD SMT

The jumper wire termination length shall be equal to the lead height (L), and shall not extend past the top of the component body.

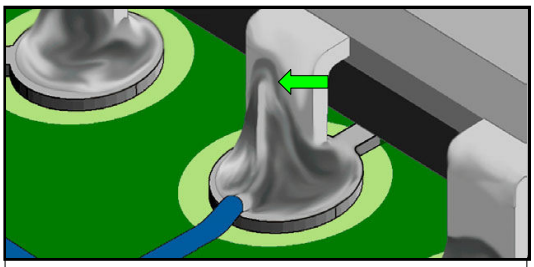
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION, J-LEAD SMT (MINIMUM)

The jumper wire termination length shall be a minimum of 75% of the lead height (L), and shall not extend past the top of the component body.

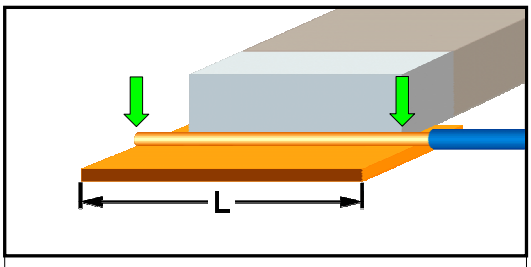
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION, PTH

The termination shall exhibit a lap solder joint a minimum of 75% of lead length, proper insulation spacing, a discernable outline, and not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

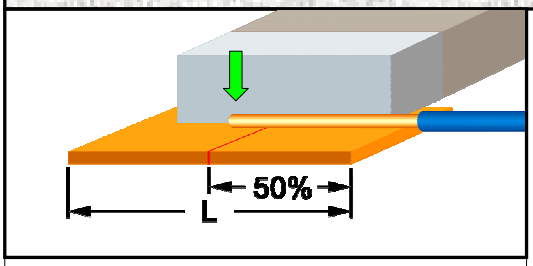
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION, SMT

The jumper wire termination shall be parallel to the longest dimension of the pad, with the solder fillet equal to the land width (L).

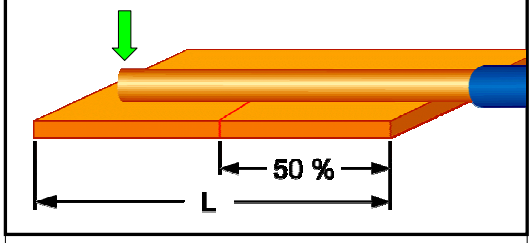
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION, SMT (MINIMUM)

The jumper wire termination shall be parallel to the longest dimension of the pad, with the solder fillet ≥ 50% of the land width (L).

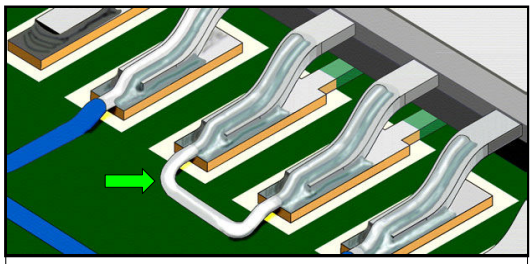
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAP TERMINATION - VACANT LAND / PAD

The jumper wire termination shall be parallel to the longest dimension of the pad (L), shall be a minimum of 50% of the dimension (L), and shall not overhang the pad.

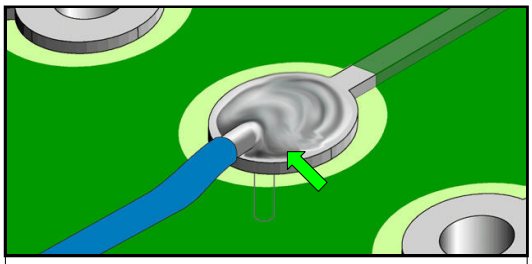
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
UNINSULATED WIRE

Uninsulated jumper wires shall be less than 25mm (0.984 in.) long, and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements. Silver-plated, stranded wire shall not be used.

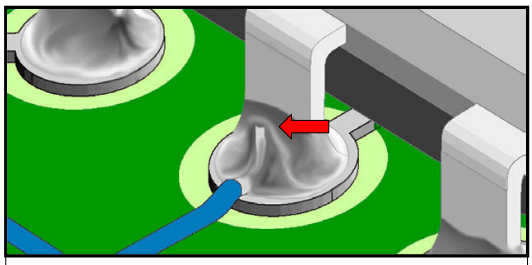
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
VIA TERMINATION

Jumper wires may be terminated and soldered into a via hole.

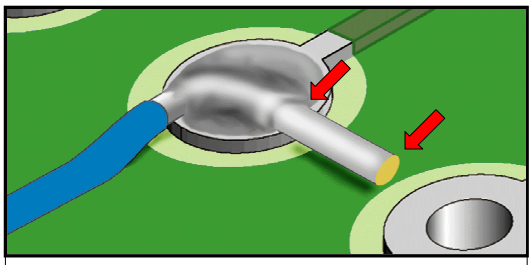
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LAP TERMINATION, PTH

The lap joint is less than the required 75% of the lead length.

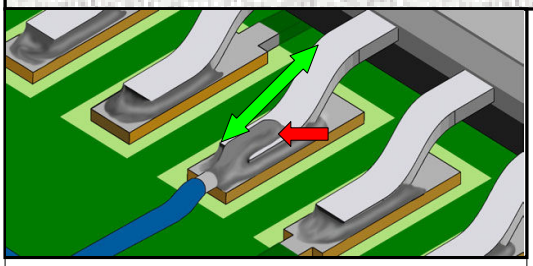
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LAP TERMINATION

The lap termination shall not overhang the land and/or violate minimum electrical spacing.

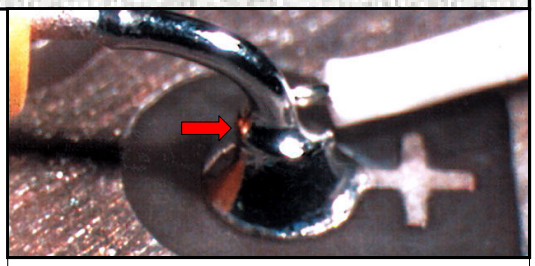
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LAP TERMINATION
GULL WING SMT

The jumper wire termination shall be a minimum of 75% of the lead length (L), as measured between the toe and knee.

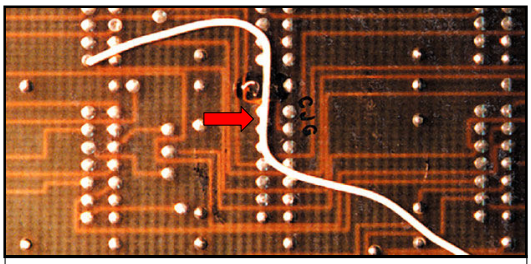
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD TERMINATION

The termination wrap shall be a minimum of 90° and a maximum of 180°, with evidence of proper insulation gap, and without overhanging the component termination.

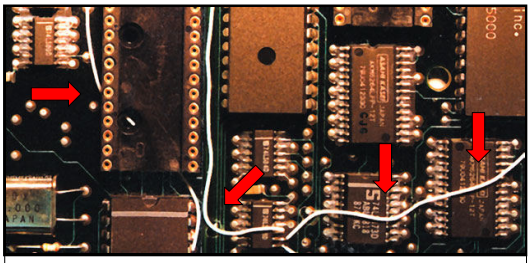
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ROUTING
(OVER TEST POINTS)

Jumper wires shall not be routed over circuit patterns or vias that are used as test points.

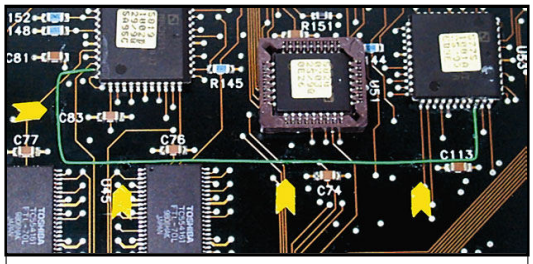
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ROUTING
(OVER / UNDER COMPONENTS)

Jumper wires shall not be routed over or under components.

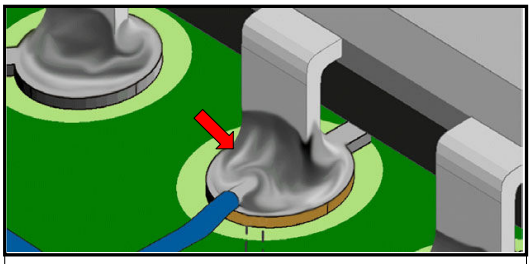
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STAKING

The jumper wire is not staked as specified. The wire is loose and can extend above the height of adjacent components.

Best Workmanship Practice

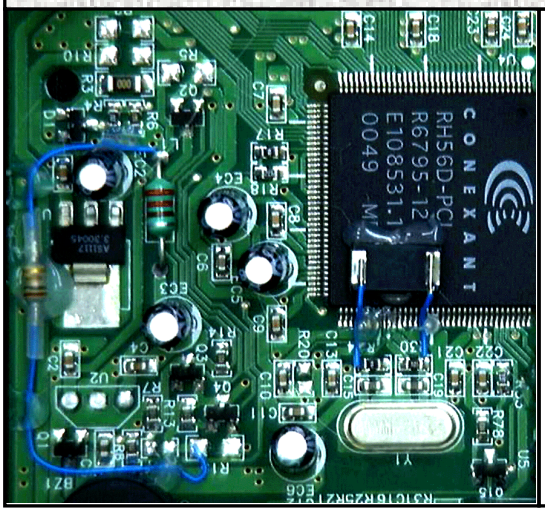


UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TERMINATION
(OCCUPIED PTH)

Jumper wires shall not be terminated and soldered into plated-through holes (PTH) occupied by a component lead.

Best Workmanship Practice

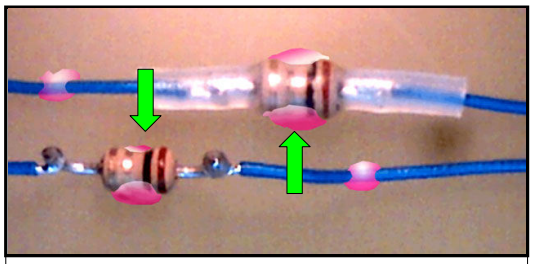
DISCRETE WIRING
DEADBUGS



DEADBUGS

The term “Deadbugs” is an industry nickname for the discrete components added and wired into a printed wiring assembly (PWA) to facilitate active circuit modifications, rather than redesign and manufacture a new board. The nickname comes from their general appearance on the board: upside down, with their termination leads (legs) up in the air – like a dead bug.

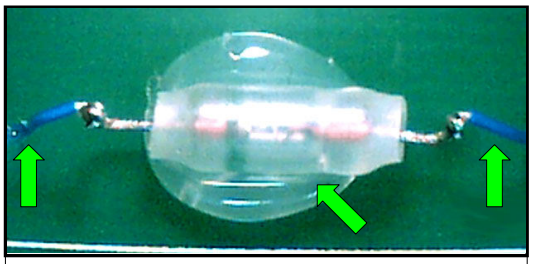
While their use is an accepted practice, the customer must grant approval prior to their use and installation.



PREFERRED
AXIAL-LEADED COMPONENT

Component is properly mounted. Lead bends are within limits. Terminations are properly wrapped. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements. Jumper wires have appropriate stress relief.

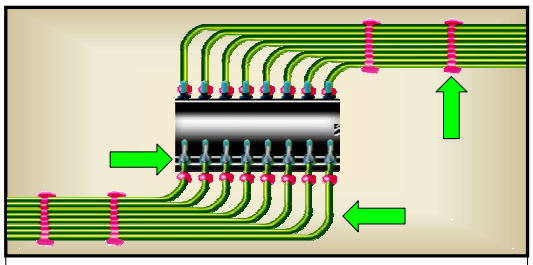
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
GLASS-BODIED COMPONENT

Component is covered with a transparent resilient sleeving, and properly mounted. Lead bends are within limits. Terminations are properly wrapped. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements. Jumper wires have appropriate stress relief.

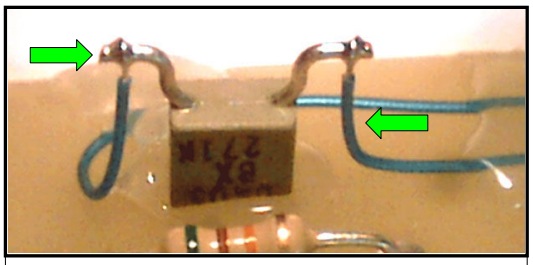
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
DUAL-INLINE PACKAGE (DIP)

Component is properly mounted and terminated. Jumper wires are properly terminated, with appropriate stress relief. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements.

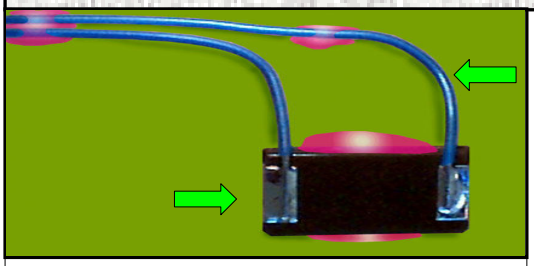
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
RADIAL-LEADED COMPONENT

Component is properly mounted and terminated. Lead bends are within limits. Terminations are properly wrapped. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements. Jumper wires have appropriate stress relief.

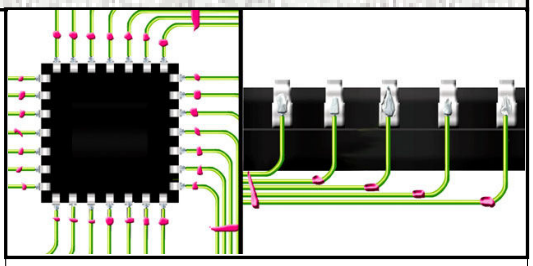
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY
CHIP / MELF / METALLIZED TERMINALS

Component is properly mounted and terminated. Jumper wires are properly terminated, with appropriate stress relief. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements.

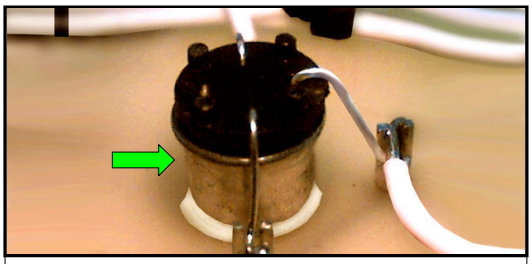
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY
GULL-WING / J-LEAD / LEADED DEVICES

Component is properly mounted and terminated. Jumper wires are properly terminated, with appropriate stress relief. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements.

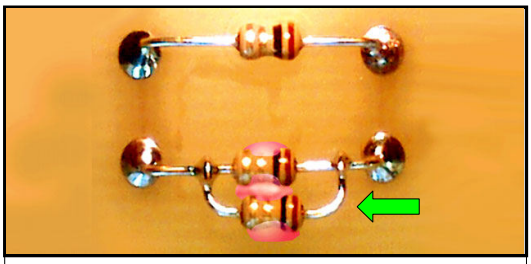
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
TO-CAN COMPONENT

Component is properly mounted and terminated. Lead bends are within limits. Terminations are properly wrapped. The solder joints meet all minimum requirements. Jumper wires have appropriate stress relief.

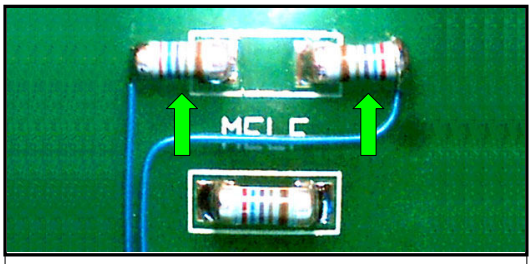
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
AXIAL COMPONENT PIGGYBACK

Axial components may be piggybacked to axial components in a vertical or horizontal orientation, but shall be staked. Terminations shall meet minimum lead seal spacing, lead bend, wrap, and solder fillet requirements.

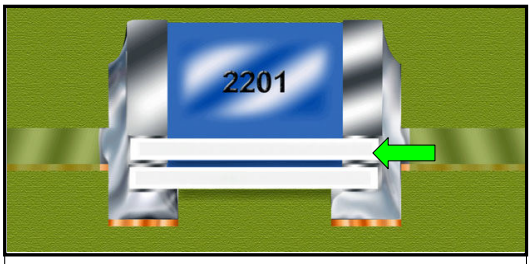
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CHIP / MELF / METALLIZED TERMINALS
ALTERNATE MOUNT

Chip component mounting to a single pad is acceptable, provided the component is properly staked to prevent stress to the solder joints or the component body.

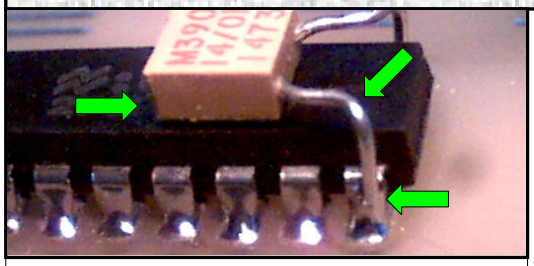
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PIGGYBACKING / STACKING
SMT (3-5 SIDE) CHIP COMPONENTS

The components are in vertical alignment, with no overhang. The terminations exhibit fully wetted solder fillets and the stack does not exceed two (2) components high.

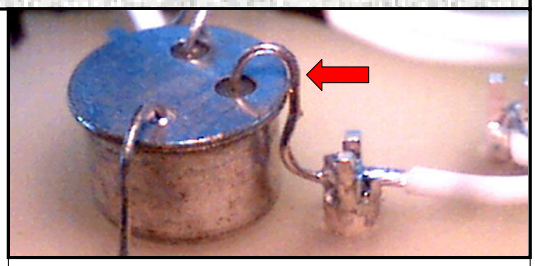
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PIGGYBACKING / STACKING TO ICs
AXIAL / RADIAL / SMT COMPONENTS

IC piggybacking is acceptable when space and/or noise requirements prohibit more traditional placement methods. Component leads / jumper wires shall meet minimum bend requirements.

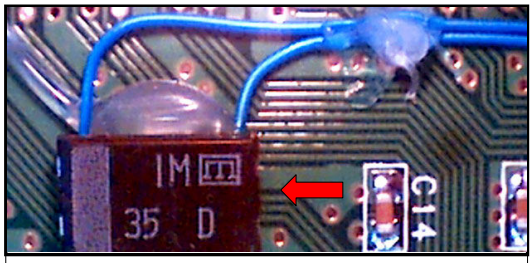
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD DRESS

Dead-bugged components shall be mounted and dressed in a manner that prevents shorting of the leads to the component case (pictured) or to other conductors.

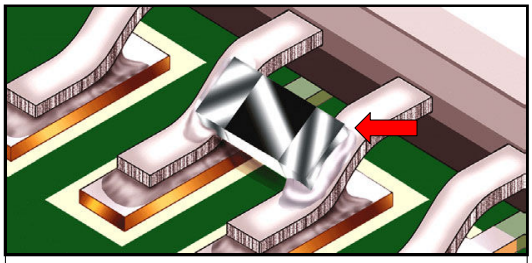
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER MOUNTING ORIENTATION

Components shall be mounted with the leads in an orientation that ensures the terminations meet minimum electrical spacing requirements. As pictured, the component terminals are resting on exposed circuitry and vias.

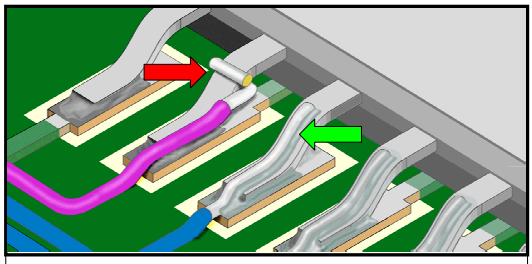
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER MOUNTING
SMT COMPONENTS MOUNTED ON LEADS

Chip and MELF devices shall not be directly mounted on component leads of integrated circuit (chip) packages.

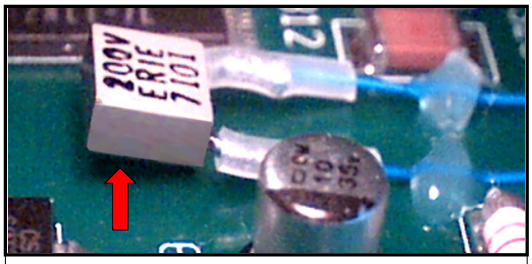
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SOLDER TERMINATION
LEADED DEVICES

Jumper wires shall be lap soldered to the device leads. Wrapped terminations place stress on the component lead, and may violate minimum lead-to-lead electrical spacing requirements.

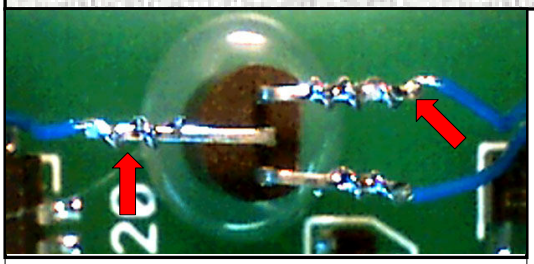
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STAKING

The component shall be secured with an adhesive material, per engineering documentation.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TERMINATION WRAP

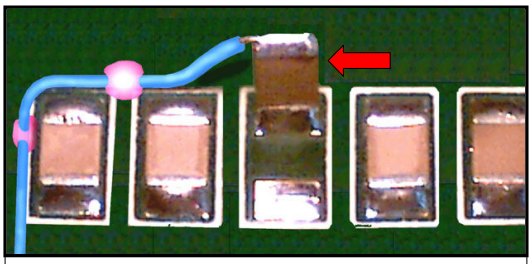
Jumper wires shall be wrapped at least 180° to 270° around the component lead prior to soldering, and shall not be located closer than one (1) lead diameter to end of the component lead.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
PIGGY-BACK / STACKING
CYLINDRICAL / MELF COMPONENTS

The piggy-backing / stacking of cylindrical / glass-bodied / MELF components is not recommended.

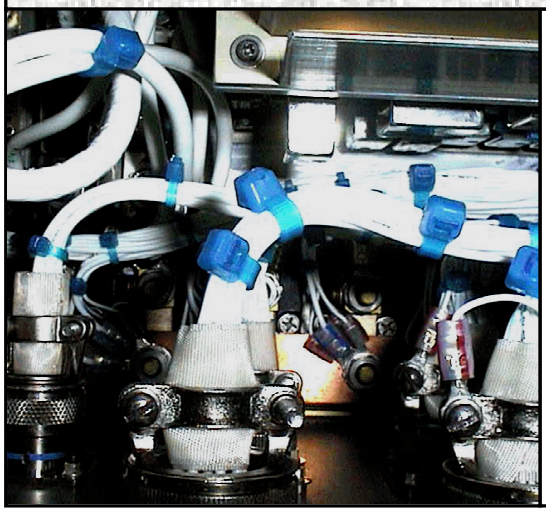
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
TOMBSTONED TERMINATION

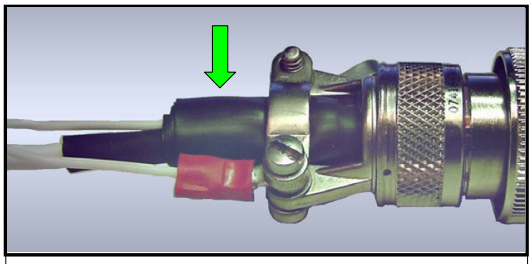
Deadbugged components shall be mounted parallel to and in contact with the base laminate, or base component (if applicable). Tombstoning places unacceptable stress on the component/solder pad termination.

Best Workmanship Practice



CABLE AND HARNESS GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

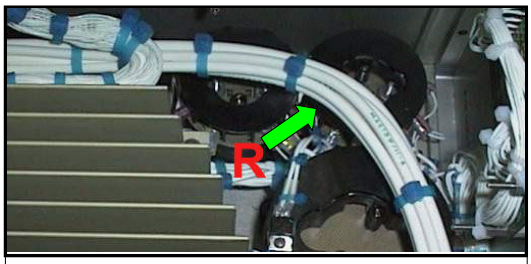
Often the most overlooked and ignored component of any electrical / electronic design, cables and harnesses are essential to the accurate and rapid transmission of data and control signals.



PREFERRED BACKSHELL

Connector backshells shall be potted and molded, or use stress relief boots as required, in accordance with applicable engineering documentation.

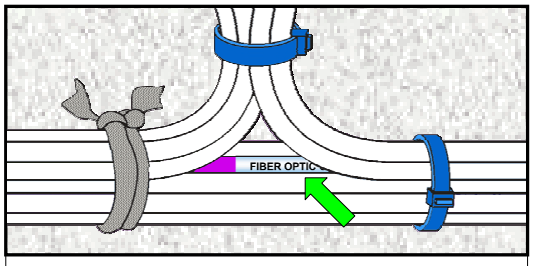
NASA-STD-8739.4 [13.1.1.c]



PREFERRED BEND RADIUS

Cables and harnesses shall not be subjected to bending forces resulting in radii less than the minimum specified for the most sensitive component (i.e.: coaxial, fiber, etc.) in the assembly.

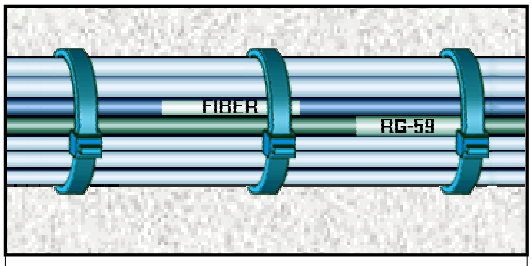
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED COAXIAL / FIBER OPTIC CABLE LOCATION

Harnesses should be designed so that coaxial / fiber optic cables are located at or near the bundle center to minimize flexure, and to provide additional protection.

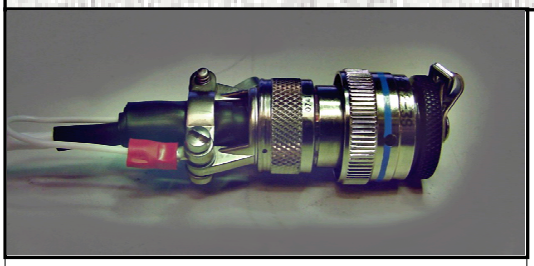
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED COAXIAL / FIBER OPTIC CABLES

Coaxial cables (flexible, semi-rigid, rigid) and fiber optic cables shall exhibit a neatly organized layout, with smooth bends and sufficient stress relief.

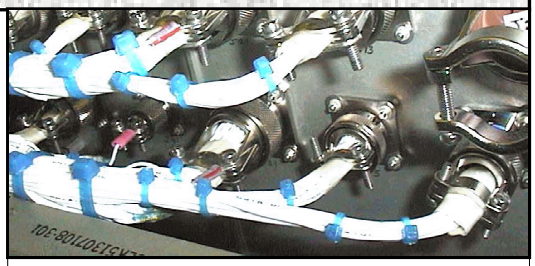
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
CONNECTOR STYLE

Connectors shall be straight, right-angle, or flange-mount. The use of right-angle connectors shall be minimized and restricted to applications where stress-free mounting of the cable assembly can be assured.

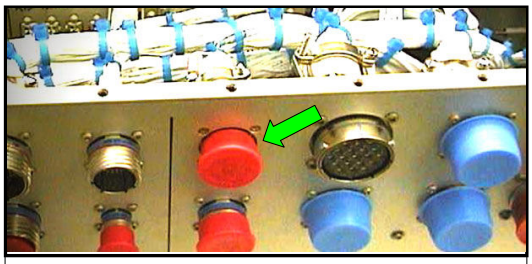
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
DISCRETE WIRE HARNESSES

Harnesses exhibit a neatly organized layout, with smooth bends and sufficient stress relief. Connector cable clamps and cable straps are properly set.

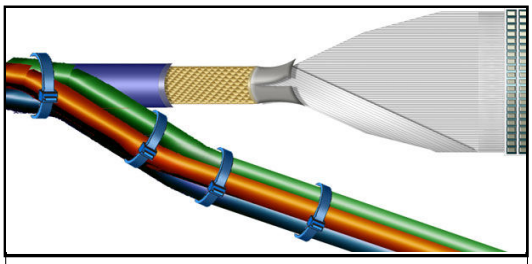
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e]



PREFERRED
DUST CAPS

The mating surfaces of all unmated connectors shall be protected by covers during storage, handling, and installation. Connectors on ESD sensitive hardware shall be protected by ESD rated dust caps / covers.

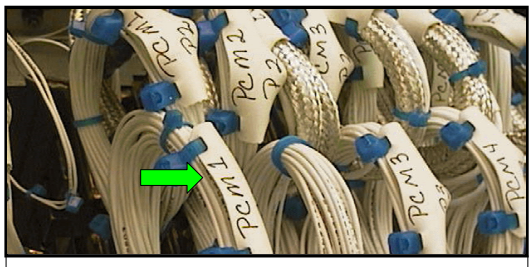
NASA-STD-8739.4 [13.1.2], [16.2.4], [16.3.3]



PREFERRED
HYBRID CABLES / HARNESSES

Hybrid cables / harnesses (copper / fiber optic / coaxial conductors) shall be designed to comply with the requirements of the most sensitive and demanding component (typically the fiber optic cable) in the assembly.

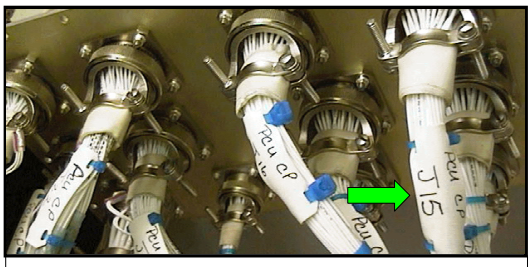
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
IDENTIFICATION
CABLES / HARNESSES

Each cable / harness shall be identified by a permanent label / marking.

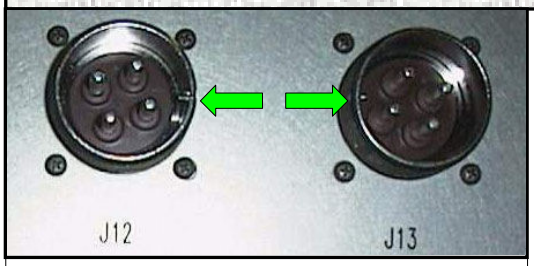
NASA-STD-8739.4 [14.2.1]



PREFERRED
IDENTIFICATION
CONNECTOR

Each connector shall be identified by a permanent label / marking affixed directly to the connector body, or to the cable adjacent to the connector.

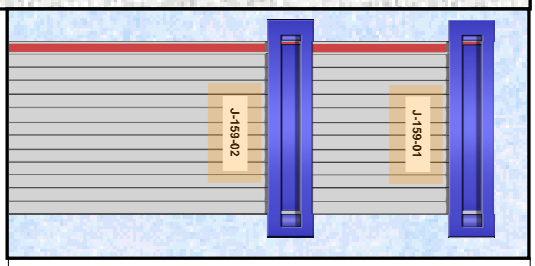
NASA-STD-8739.4 [14.2.2]



PREFERRED
POLARIZATION / KEYING

Interconnecting cables and harnesses shall be designed with physical constraints (keying, sizing, polarization, etc.) to prevent incorrect mating / interchanging with similar sized / colored connectors.

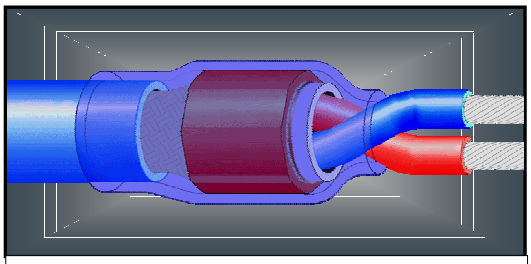
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.1]



PREFERRED
RIBBON CABLE

The cable assembly meets dimensional, layout, and design requirements and exhibits a smooth, flat profile, with no visible damage to the connectors or the insulation. Connectors are properly aligned and seated.

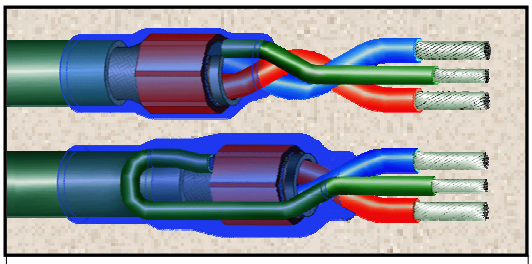
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SHIELD TERMINATION - FLOATING

Heat shrink tubing is properly installed, tightly shrunk, and the termination is visible. Overlaps are of sufficient length to meet minimum electrical spacing.

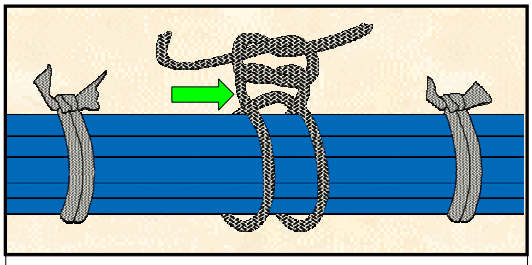
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.9], [11.5], [19.6.1]



PREFERRED
SHIELD TERMINATION - GROUNDED

Heat shrink sections are properly installed, tightly shrunk, and the termination is visible. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing. Ground wire exhibits proper bend radius and strain relief.

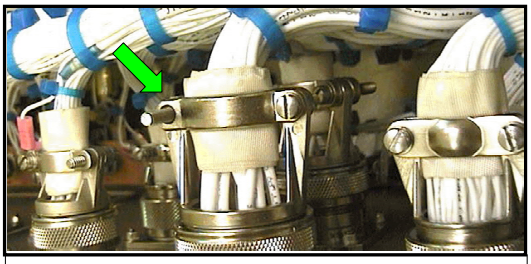
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22], [9.8.1], [9.9], [11.5], [19.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SPOT TIES

Spot ties shall consist of a clove hitch, followed by a square or other similar non-slip knot (i.e.: surgeon, etc.).

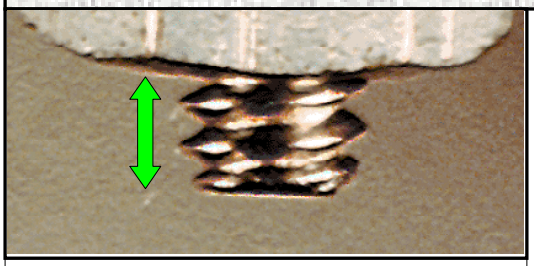
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.2.2]



ACCEPTABLE
BACKSHELL ASSEMBLY

Connector backshells, adapters, and clamps shall be assembled and torqued per engineering documentation.

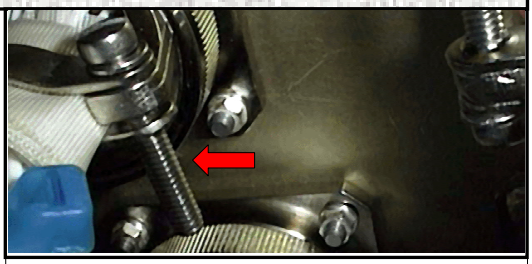
NASA-STD-8739.4 [13.5]



ACCEPTABLE
BACKSHELL SCREW PROTRUSION

Screws shall protrude a minimum of 1-1/2 threads beyond the threaded hardware (e.g., nut, clamp, etc.), but shall not violate minimum electrical spacing or snag requirements, unless otherwise specified by engineering documentation.

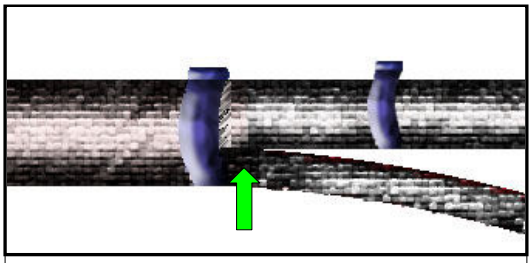
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE THREAD PROTRUSION

Excess thread protrusion represents an assembly, interference, and electrical separation problem, as well as adds unnecessary weight to the assembly.

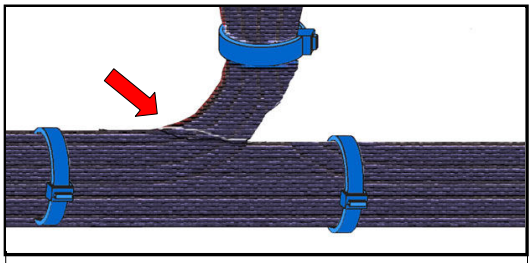
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
BREAKOUT DRESS W/ FABRIC BRAID

Braiding shall be dressed to form a smooth profile across the breakout. Braiding shall not be split, slit, or punctured to provide a breakout opening.

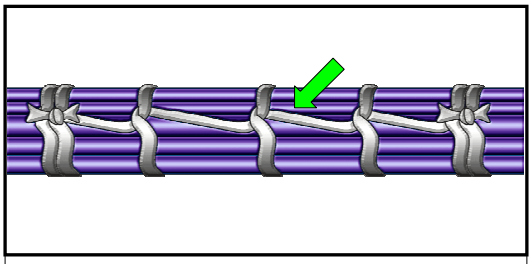
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
SPLIT / SLIT BRAIDING AT BREAKOUT

Braiding shall not be split, slip, or punctured to provide an opening at the breakout.

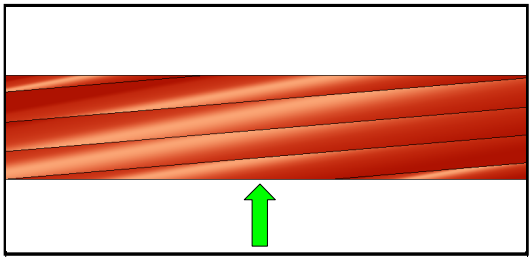
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3]



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE LACING
RUNNING STITCH

The lacing begins and ends with a knot. Wraps are properly spaced (relative to harness diameter) to maintain the wiring in a tight, neat bundle. Ends are properly trimmed.

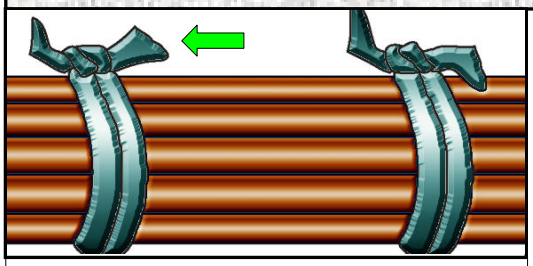
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.2]



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE LAYUP

Cables containing discrete conductors shall be fabricated in one or more layers, by winding the conductors together uniformly. Layup (twist) of each layer shall be 8-16 times the outer harness diameter.

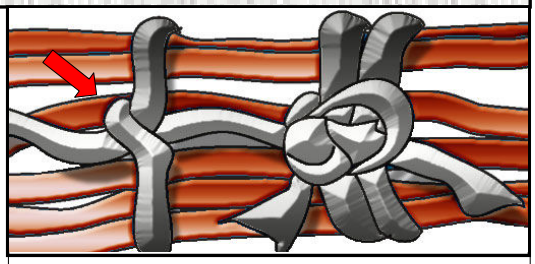
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.20], [19.6.1.e.4]



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE LACING
SPOT TIES

Ties are neat, tight, and properly spaced (relative to harness diameter) to maintain the wiring in a tight, neat bundle. Ends are properly trimmed.

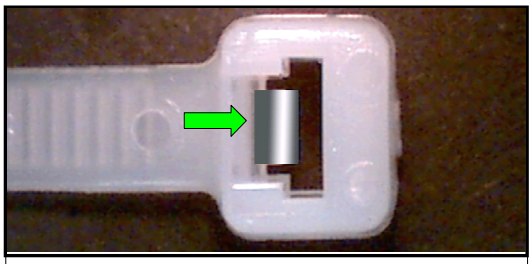
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.2.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
LOOSE CABLE LACING

The lacing has not been properly installed, resulting in a loose, unorganized bundle.

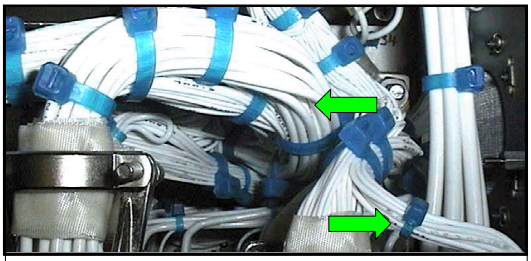
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.4]



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE STRAPS / TIES

Plastic straps should have metal tangs that lock securely into the ribbed portion of the strap.

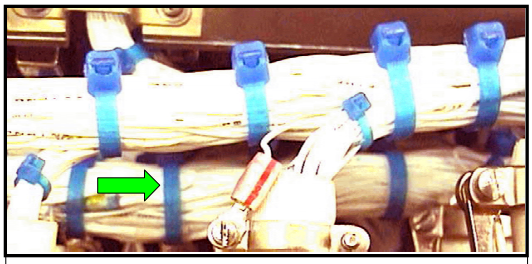
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.4]



ACCEPTABLE
CONDUCTOR DRESS

All wires are dressed with even bends and sufficient strain relief. Conductor crossover is minimized.

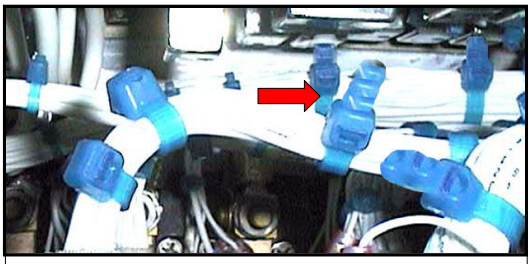
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e]



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE TIES / TIE WRAPS

The cable ties / tie wraps are sufficiently tight to prevent lateral movement along the cable bundle under normal handling, but can be rotated in place. Strap ends have been trimmed off square and flush with the face of strap head.

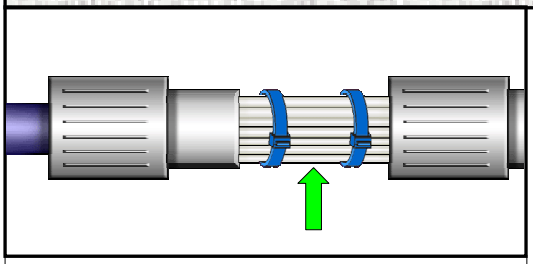
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
UNTRIMMED CABLE TIES

The strap end shall be trimmed off, flush with the back end of the strap head.

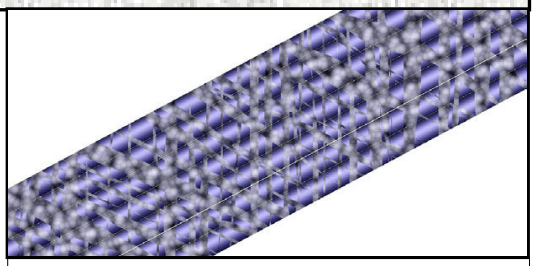
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.6], [19.6.2.d.5]



ACCEPTABLE
CONNECTOR SAVERS

The use of connector savers is recommended. Connector savers shall meet the same requirements as a flight connector.

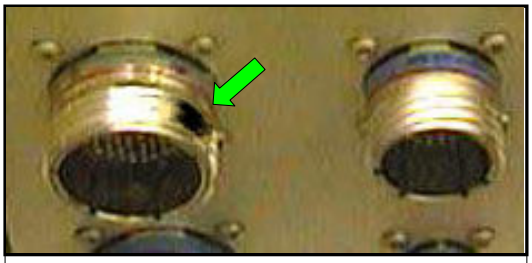
NASA-STD-8739.4 [17.2.7]



ACCEPTABLE
DIRECT WEAVE FABRIC BRAID

Fabric braids woven directly on interconnecting harnesses or cables may be loose or tight. The finish shall be smooth, without gaps in coverage, and without frayed ends.

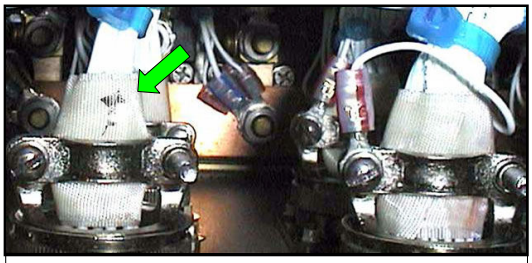
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.4]



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION / SCUFFING
CONNECTOR

Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable, provided there is no impact to form, fit, or function, and there is no exposure of base metal.

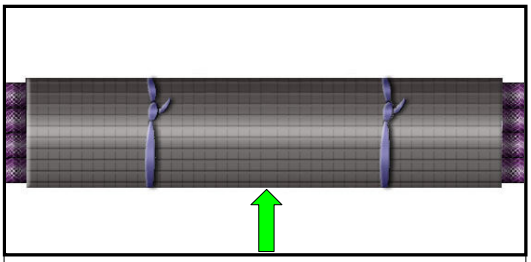
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION / SCUFFING
INSULATION

The cable does not exhibit evidence of insulation damage, such as cuts, nicks, scrapes, crushing, cold flow, or burns. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

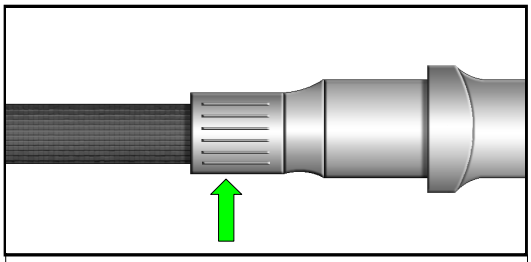
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.e.9]



ACCEPTABLE
FABRIC BRAIDED SLEEVING

Prewoven fabric (unvarnished) braid sleeving may be installed over the wire harness. Sleeving shall be snug, secured at both ends, and shall not slide freely. Ends shall be not be frayed or unraveled, and shall be tucked under.

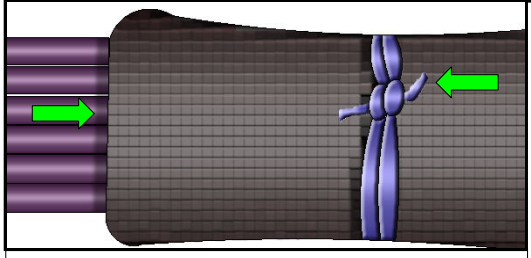
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3]



ACCEPTABLE
FABRIC BRAID SLEEVING
ALTERNATE END DRESS

The end of the braid may be secured by connector clamps, other hardware, or potting.

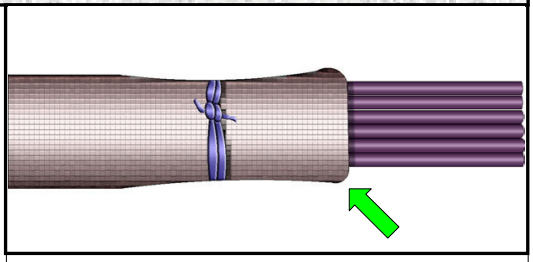
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3.2]



ACCEPTABLE
FABRIC BRAID SLEEVING
BASIC END TERMINATION

The end of the braid shall be tucked under and secured with a spot tie or plastic strap.

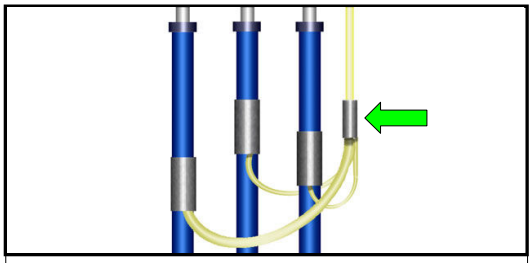
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3.1]



ACCEPTABLE
GLASS BRAID SLEEVING

The ends of glass braid may be bonded by use of adhesive, and then secured by spot tie, or other means, to prevent movement on the wire bundle.

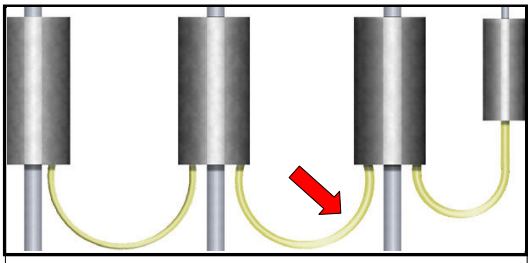
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3.3]



ACCEPTABLE
GROUP SHIELD TERMINATION

Shield ground leads shall be terminated to a common ground point. No more than 4 conductors, plus a drain wire, shall be terminated in a single splice.

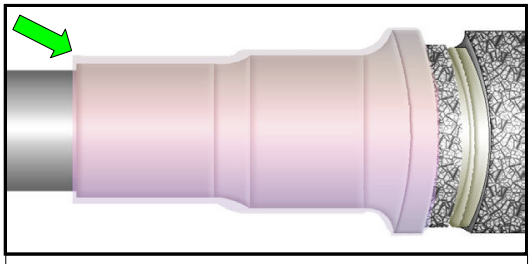
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAISY-CHAIN GROUND TERMINATION

Shield ground leads terminated in a daisy-chain configuration are susceptible to a single-point failure, should one of the links break.

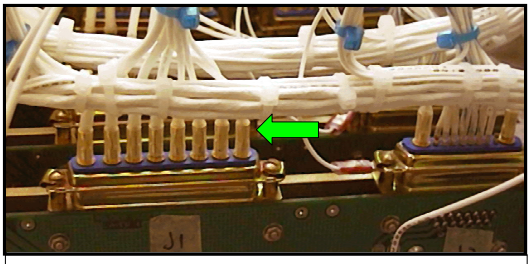
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.f.2]



ACCEPTABLE
HEAT SHRINKABLE SLEEVING

Sleeving shall be sized to provide a tight, smooth finish in the area of maximum diameter. Tubing shall be uniformly shrunk, without cracks, punctures, charred, burns, or wrinkles.

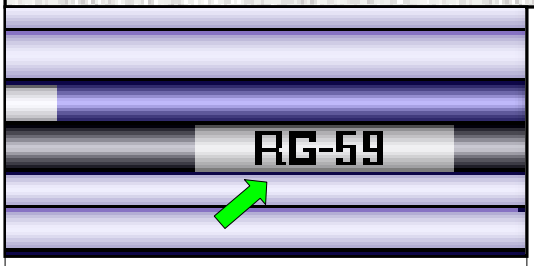
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.11], 19.6.1.e.13]



ACCEPTABLE
HEAT SHRINK TUBING AS STRESS RELIEF

The sleeving covers the termination and extends a minimum of 5 mm (0.20 in.) over the wire insulation. Tubing is fully shrunk, tight, and sufficiently rigid to provide stress relief and prevent flexure at the solder termination.

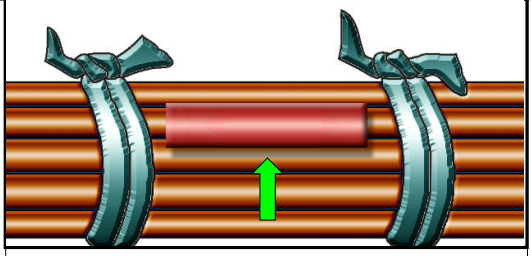
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.9], [Fig. A]



ACCEPTABLE
IDENTIFICATION

Each cable / harness shall be identified by a permanent label / marking. Each connector shall be identified by a permanent label / marking affixed directly to the connector body, or to the cable adjacent to the connector.

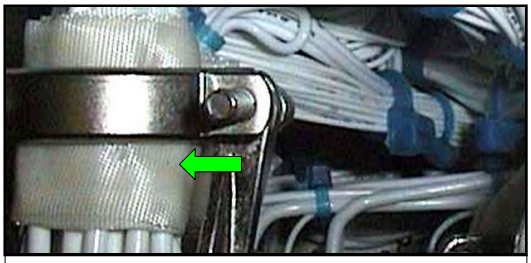
NASA-STD-8739.4 [14.2.1.], [14.2.2]



ACCEPTABLE
IN-LINE SPLICE

The splice exhibits a smooth profile, proper strain relief, and is located in an area of the harness not subjected to flexure.

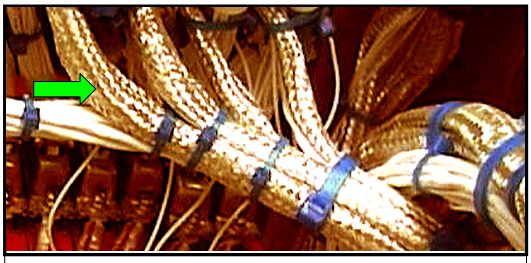
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION WRAP

Non-conductive tape / insulation wrap may be used in applications in which the use of heat-shrinkable tubing is impractical. Tape and wrapping materials shall be installed per engineering documentation.

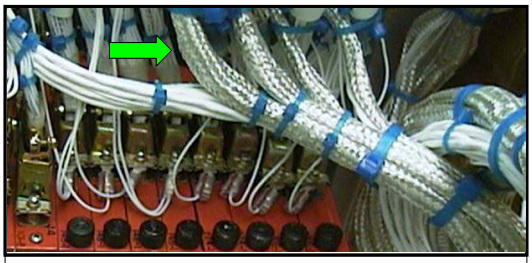
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
METAL BRAID SLEEVING

Metal braid sleeving may be installed over harnesses by either direct weave or by use of prewoven tubing. An insulation / separation layer shall be installed between the harness and the metal braid.

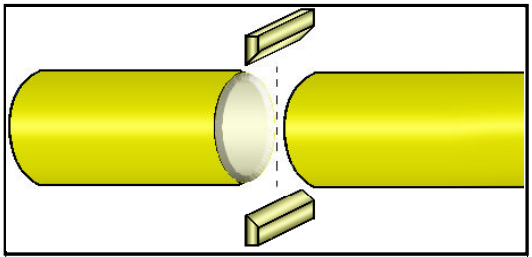
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.7]



ACCEPTABLE
OVERALL HARNESS SHIELDING

An overall braided metallic shield provides mechanical and electrical protection (EMI/RFI) to the harness. Metallic shielding shall exhibit a smooth and tight finish, with a uniform distribution of coverage and no projecting strands.

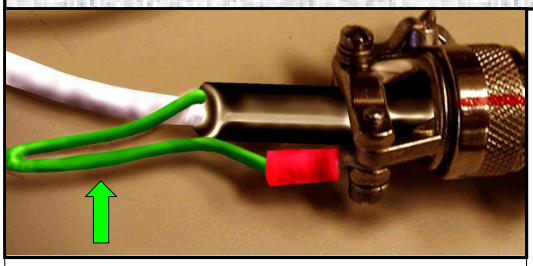
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.1.3]



ACCEPTABLE
POLYIMIDE / NYLON BRAID SLEEVING
HOT KNIFE SEALING

Polyimide or nylon braids (for use on ground support equipment) may have their ends sealed by use of a “hot knife” or similar instrument.

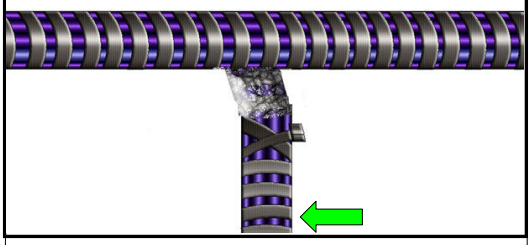
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.3.4]



ACCEPTABLE
SHIELD / DRAIN WIRE

The shield and drain wire have been properly terminated, per engineering documentation.

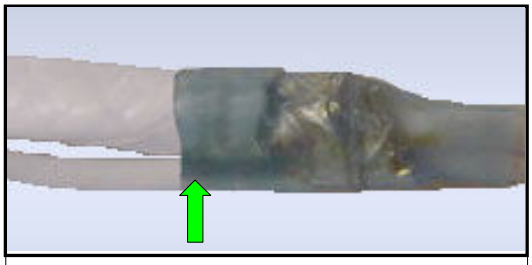
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.f.2]



ACCEPTABLE
SPIRAL WRAP SLEEVING

Spiral wrap shall be tight, uniformly spaced, and shall not overlap. Ends shall be trimmed to eliminate sharp edges.
Note: Spiral wrap shall not be used on spacecraft or launch vehicles.

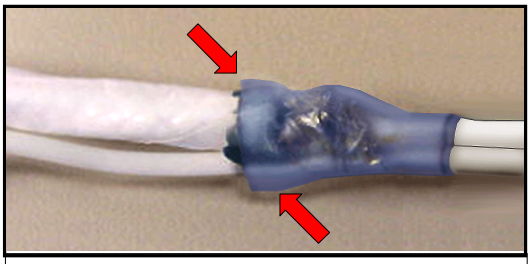
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.5]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE TERMINATION

The solder sleeve has been properly installed and tightly shrunk. Strain relief is acceptable. Overlaps are of sufficient length to meet minimum electrical spacing. Solder fillet is visible, fully flowed, and smooth.

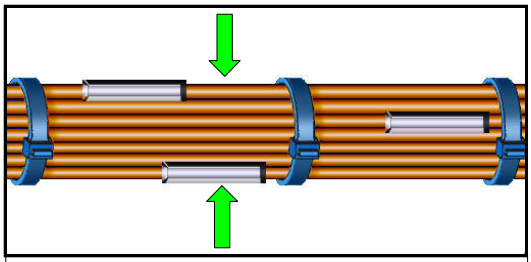
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE TERMINATION

The solder sleeve has not been completely shrunk and is improperly positioned, resulting in a poor fit that does not provide a good mechanical grip or seal, and which does not meet minimum overlap requirements.

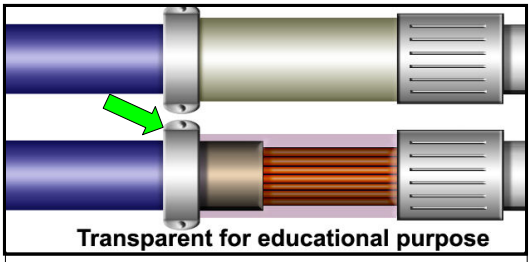
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.8.1], [9.11]



ACCEPTABLE
SPLICE ASSEMBLY PROFILE

The location of splices shall be staggered to minimize the increase in profile to the harness. Final assembly profile shall not impact form, fit, or function.

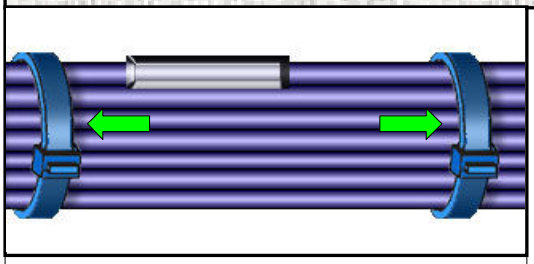
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRAIN RELIEF

The cable (shielded / unshielded) should be dressed to ensure that the strain relief mechanism transfers structural stresses from the connector to the cable sheath (or strength member) rather than to the individual conductors.

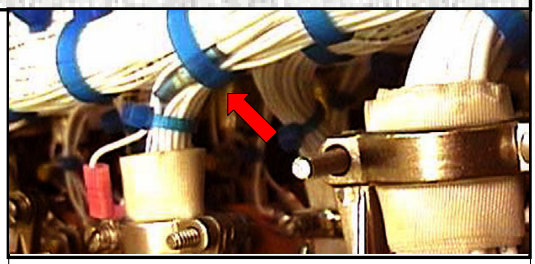
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SPLICE / SOLDER SLEEVE RESTRAINT

Cable ties / lacing shall be installed at both ends of a splice or solder sleeve, but placement shall not violate stress relief requirements.

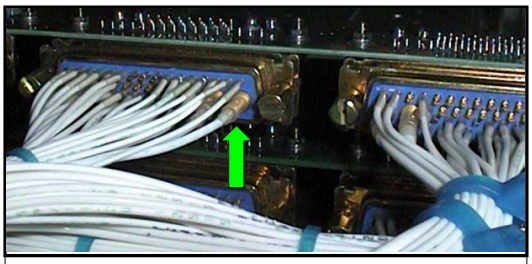
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICE / SOLDER SLEEVE RESTRAINT

Cable ties / lacing shall not be installed across the splice / solder sleeve body, unless sufficient protection is provided to prevent compression damage to the termination and/or to the insulation of adjacent conductors.

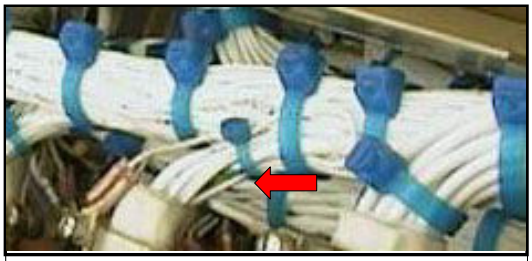
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRESS RELIEF

Wires exiting from the connector shall be stress relieved.

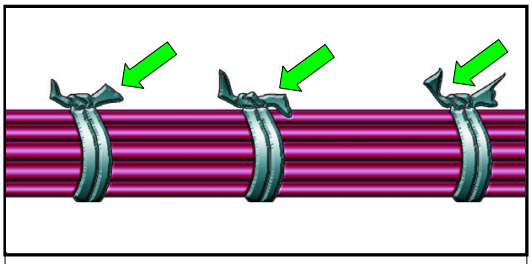
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT STRESS RELIEF

The placement of cable ties / straps shall not negate strain relief in cables or harnesses.

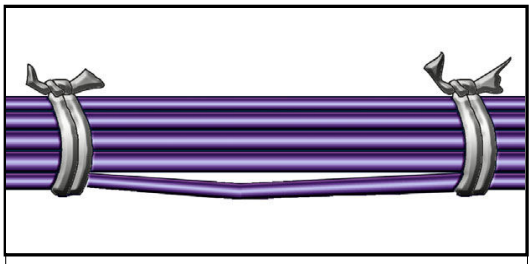
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
TIE / WRAP SPACING

Ties are neat, tight, and properly spaced (relative to harness diameter) to maintain the wiring in a tight, neat bundle.

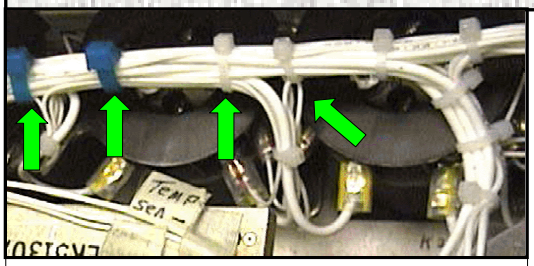
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.2], [19.6.1.e.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCORRECT TIE SPACING

Cable ties / wraps have not been properly spaced relative to bundle / harness diameter.

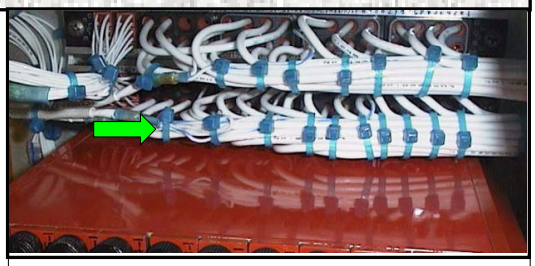
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.7]



ACCEPTABLE
TIE / WRAP SPACING AT BREAKOUT

Lacing or tie wraps have been placed on both sides of the harness breakouts. Ties are neat and tight.

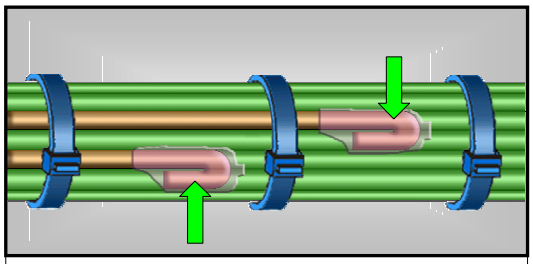
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.6]



ACCEPTABLE
UNIFORM CONDUCTOR TENSION

The conductors exhibit uniform tension throughout the length of the harness. No bunching, bowing, looping, kinks, etc.

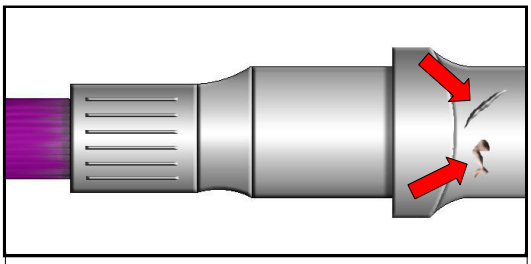
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.3]



ACCEPTABLE
UNUSED / SPARE CONDUCTORS

Unused or spare conductors shall be terminated by folding the unstripped end back on itself and then sealed with insulation sleeving or wrap. Conductor ends shall be secured to prevent unwanted movement, protrusion, or snagging.

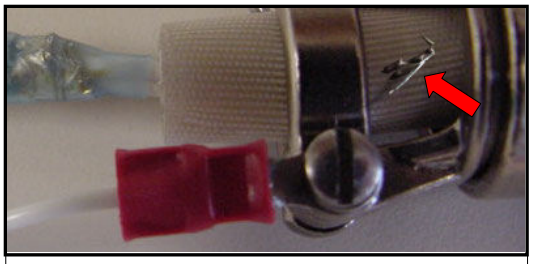
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.19]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE
CONNECTOR

Damage to the connector (i.e.: cuts, gouges, cracks, deformed features, bent pins, exposed base metal, etc.).

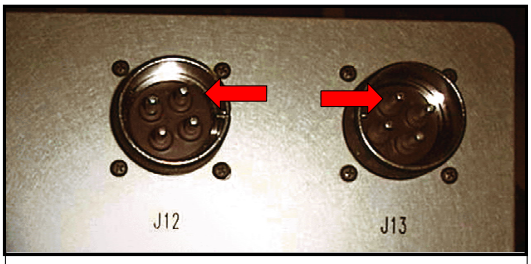
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE, INSULATION

Damage to the cable jacket, ribbon, or conductor insulation (i.e.: cuts, pinching, nicks, scrapes, crazing, crushing, cold flow, exposed conductors, punctures, thinning, or burns).

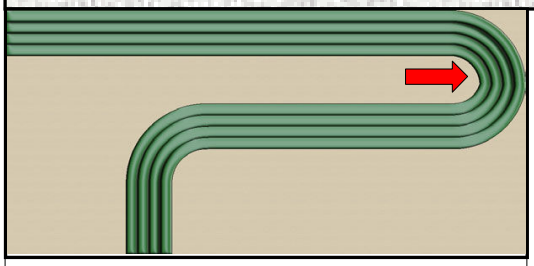
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.e.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED POWER CONTACTS

Active signal / live voltages shall be confined to connectors with sockets to preclude the exposure of voltage points when the connector is disconnected.

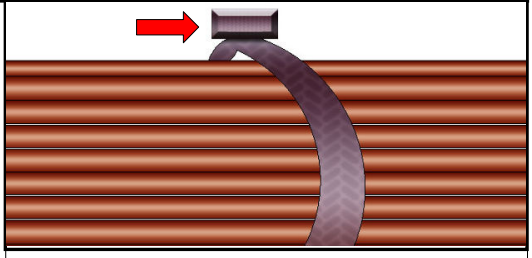
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.18]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER BEND RADIUS

The harness exhibits a bend radius that is less than the minimum recommended for the conductor type(s) used and overall harness diameter.

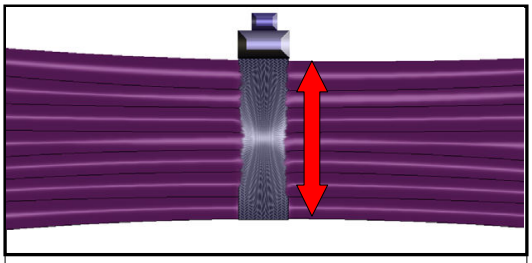
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER CABLE TIE / WRAP TENSION

Cable tie / wrap tension is too loose, allowing lateral movement along the cable bundle under normal handling.

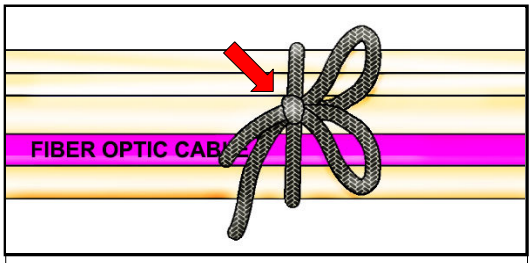
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER CABLE TIE / WRAP TENSION

Cable tie / wrap tension is too high, resulting in deformation and pinching of the wire insulation.

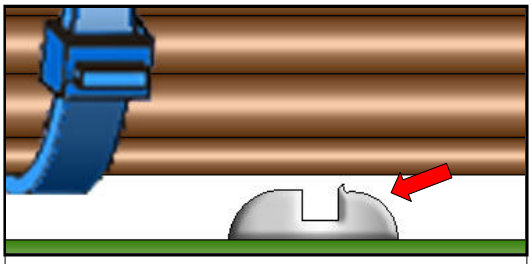
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LACING KNOT

The cable lacing has been secured with a bow-knot, rather than a square / non-slip knot. This tie may eventually loosen.

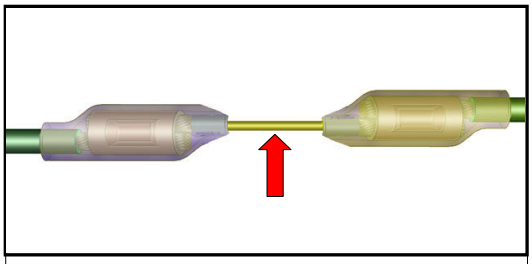
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ROUTING

Cables and harnesses shall be routed so that they are protected from abrasion, cold flow, cut through, vibration, chafing, flexing, and sharp edges.

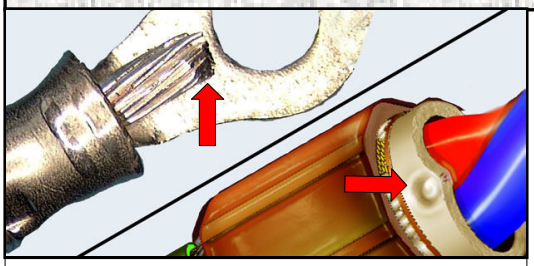
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.14]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SPLICE GAUGE / SIZE

Replacement conductors shall be of the same voltage and current rating as the original conductor.

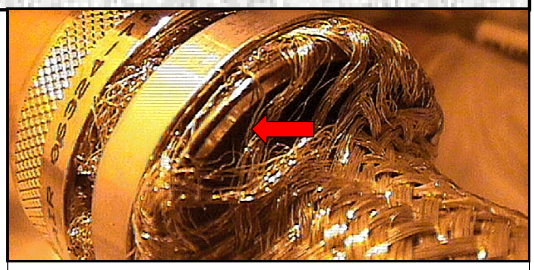
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TERMINATION

Solder and/or crimped terminations that do not meet the requirements of NASA-STD-8739.3 and/or NASA-STD-8739.4 shall be cause for rejection.

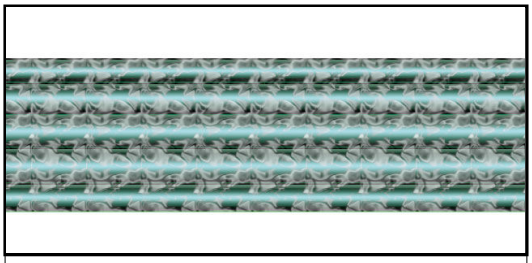
NASA-STD-8739.4 [13.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE COVERAGE OF METAL BRAID

Metal braid sleeving shall exhibit uniform coverage, to provide electrical and mechanical protection to the underlying harness.

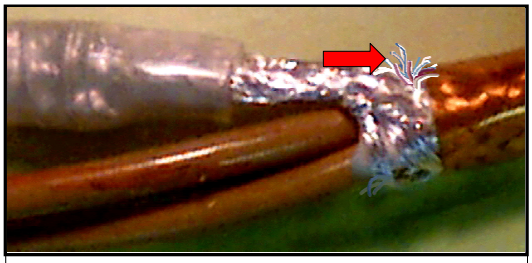
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.b.8], [19.6.2.e.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCORRECT LACING MATERIAL

Waxed lacing shall not be used for spaceflight applications.

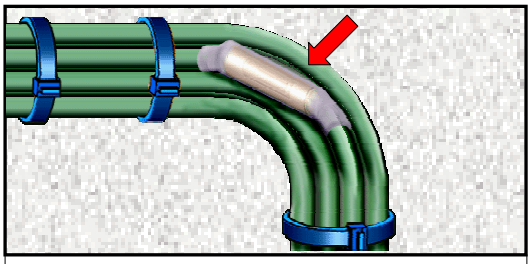
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
PROJECTING SHIELD STRANDS

The shield strands have been improperly dressed, resulting in projecting strands that may result in an electrical short or sharp object (puncture / snag) concern.

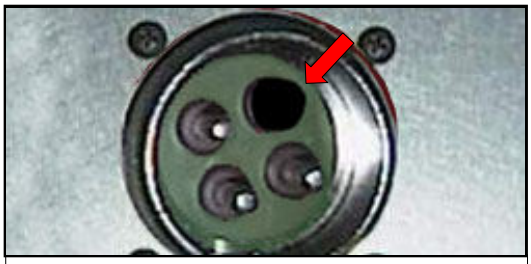
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICES IN FLEXURE ZONE

Splices shall not be installed in areas where the harness is designed to flex.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNSEALED ENVIRONMENTAL CONNECTOR

Sealing plugs or unused pins shall be installed in all unwired / unused holes to retain the environmental rating of the connector.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.19]

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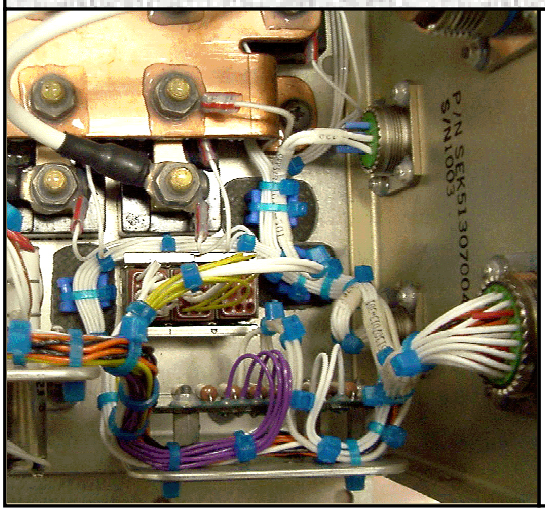
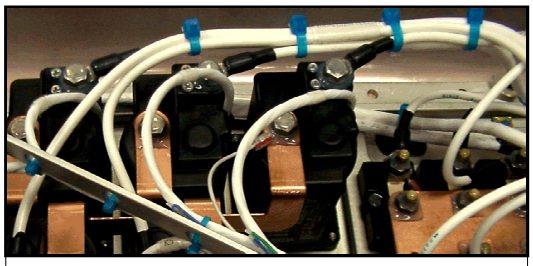
CABLE AND HARNESS
DISCRETE CONDUCTOR HARNESSES



DISCRETE CONDUCTOR HARNESSES

Discrete conductor harnesses are built to print for specific applications, and are constructed of one or more individually insulated wires, cables, or fiber optics; with or without an overall helical twist; with or without an overall covering, jacket, or metallic braid; with or without breakouts; assembled with two or more electrical termination devices; and engineered as a unit that can be assembled and handled as a single component.

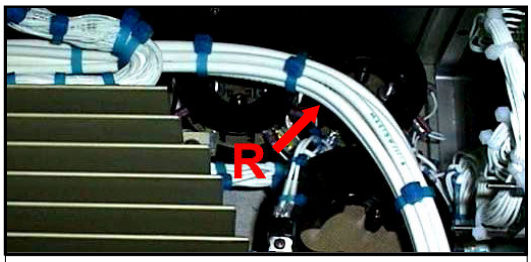
See Section 4.01 “Cable and Harness, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
GENERAL HARNESSES

Harness and connectors are clean, damage-free, and free of contamination and/or corrosion. Dimensions, layout, and identification meet design requirements.

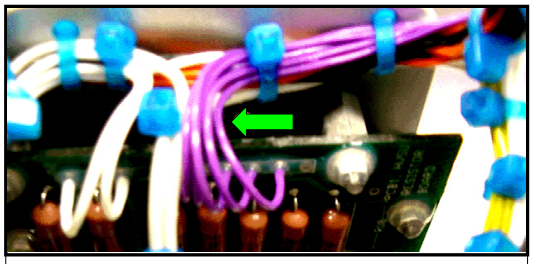
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e]



MANDATORY
BEND RADIUS

Cables and harnesses shall not be subjected to bending forces resulting in radii less than the minimum specified for the most sensitive component (i.e.: coaxial, fiber, etc.) in the assembly.

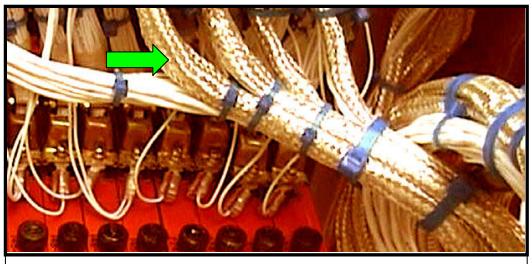
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CONDUCTOR DRESS

All wires are dressed with even bends and sufficient strain relief. Conductor crossover is minimized.

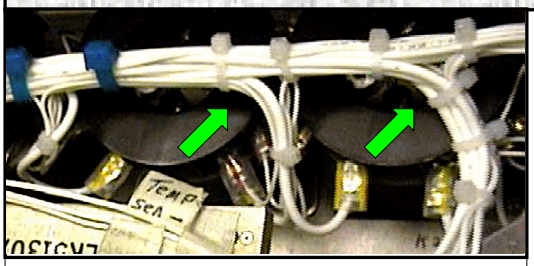
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e]



ACCEPTABLE
OVERALL SHIELDING

An overall braided metallic shield provides mechanical and electrical protection (EMI/RFI) to the harness. Metallic shielding shall exhibit a smooth and tight finish, with a uniform distribution of coverage and no projecting strands.

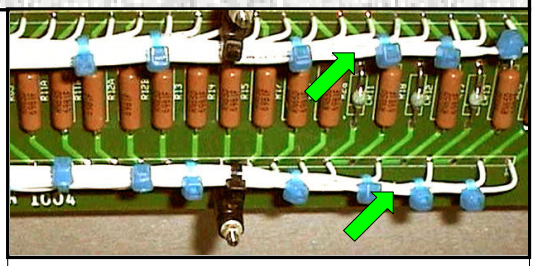
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.1.3]



ACCEPTABLE
TIE / WRAP SPACING AT BREAKOUT

Lacing or tie wraps have been placed on both sides of the harness breakouts. Ties are neat and tight.

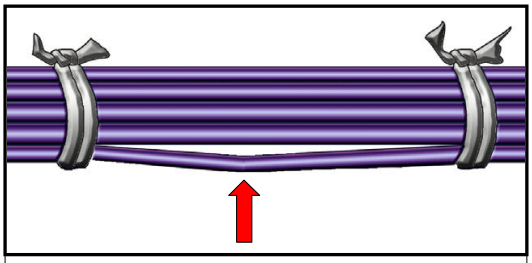
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.6]



ACCEPTABLE
UNIFORM CONDUCTOR TENSION

The conductors exhibit uniform tension throughout the length of the harness. No bunching, bowing, looping, kinks, etc.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.3]

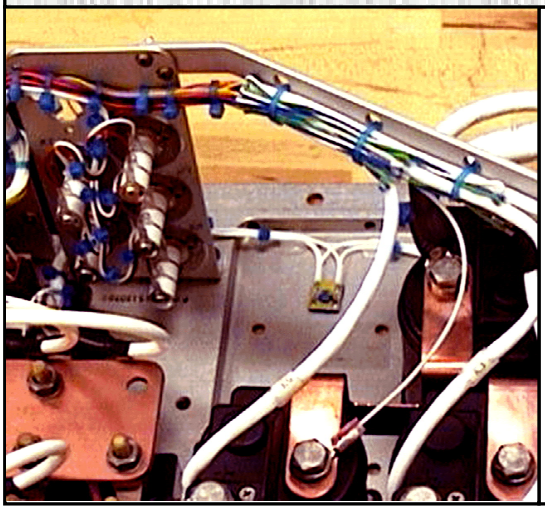


UNACCEPTABLE
INCORRECT TIE SPACING

Cable ties / wraps have not been properly spaced relative to bundle / harness diameter.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.d.7]

CABLE AND HARNESS
MULTI-CONDUCTOR

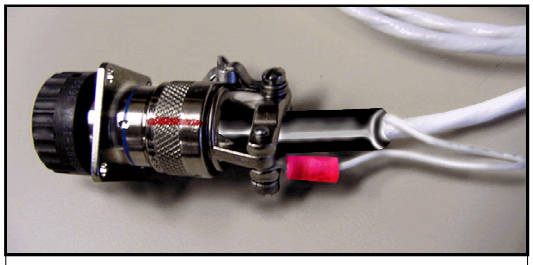


MULTI-CONDUCTOR

Multi-conductor cable is an engineered wiring product, typically constructed of two (2) or more individually insulated conductors, bound together by an overall insulation jacket (unshielded); or, bound and wrapped with an overall metallic covering (braid or foil), and covered by an overall insulation jacket (shielded).

Multiconductor cable is used primarily for the transmission of control and/or data signals.

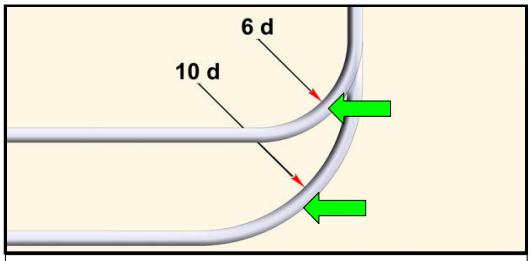
See Section 4.01 “Cable and Harness, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Cable and connectors are clean, damage-free, and free of contamination and/or corrosion. Shields are terminated per engineering requirements. Dimensions, layout, and identification meet design requirements.

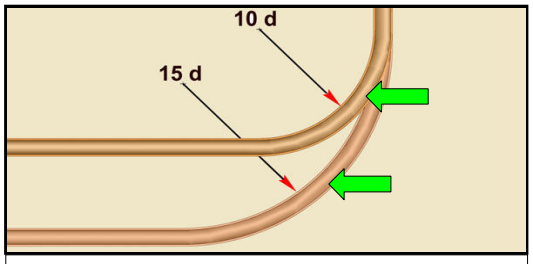
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1]



PREFERRED
BEND RADIUS
(EXCLUDING KAPTON®)

Cables insulated with materials other than Kapton® shall not be bent less than six (6) outer diameters. The recommended long-term bend radius is ten (10) diameters.

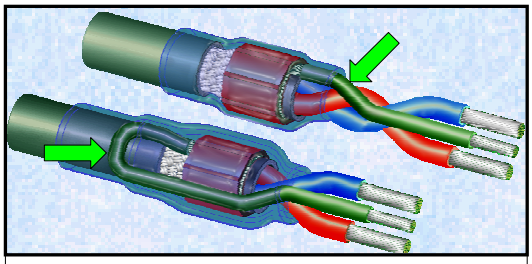
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21]



PREFERRED
BEND RADIUS
(KAPTON®)

Kapton® insulated cables shall not be bent less than ten (10) outer diameters. The recommended long-term bend radius is fifteen (15) diameters.

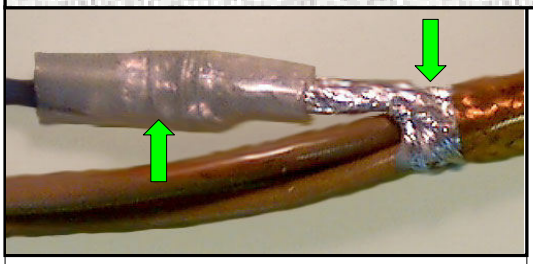
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21]



ACCEPTABLE
SHIELD TERMINATION – CRIMP SLEEVE

Heat shrink sections are properly installed, tightly shrunk, and the termination is visible. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing. Ground wire exhibits proper bend radius and strain relief.

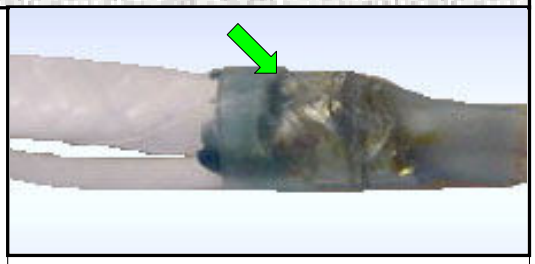
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22], [19.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SHIELD TERMINATION – LASH SPLICE
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The termination exhibits a fully wetted solder termination. Shield braid is smooth and evenly dressed with no sharp edges or projections. Shrink tubing properly installed and tight.

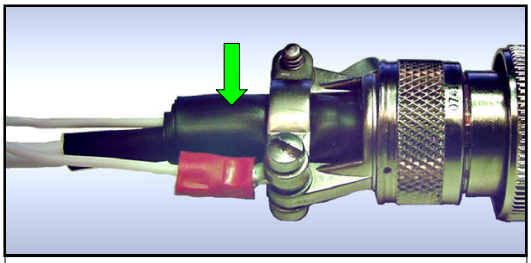
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE TERMINATION

The solder sleeve has been properly installed and tightly shrunk. Strain relief is acceptable. Overlaps are of sufficient length to meet minimum electrical spacing. Solder fillet is visible, fully flowed, and smooth.

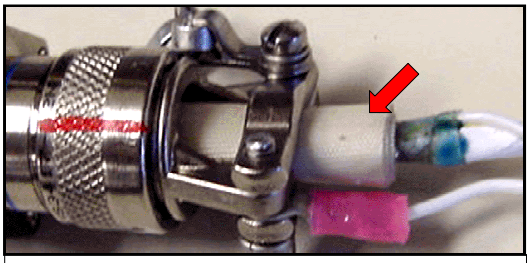
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.4]



ACCEPTABLE
STRAIN RELIEF

The cable (shielded / unshielded) should be dressed to ensure that the strain relief mechanism transfers structural stresses from the connector to the cable sheath (or strength member) rather than to the individual conductors.

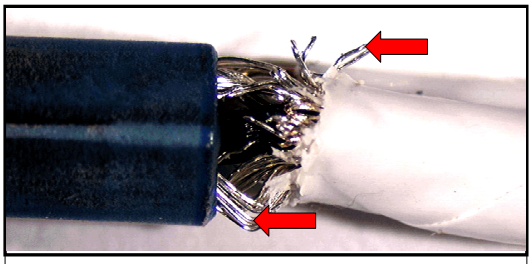
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

The cable has been dressed in a manner that results in the possible transfer of stress from the connector to the individual conductors, rather than to the cable sheath or stress member.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PROJECTING SHIELD STRANDS

The shield strands have been improperly dressed, resulting in projecting strands that may result in an electrical short or sharp object (puncture / snag) concern.

Best Workmanship Practice

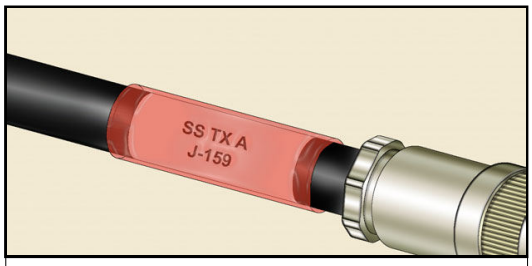
CABLE AND HARNESS
COAXIAL

COAXIAL

Coaxial is an engineered cable product, typically supplied in the form of a central conductor insulated by a dielectric material, held in concentric orientation to a conductive tubing or sheathing that serves both as an EMI/RFI shield and as a return circuit path.

Coaxial systems are available in different technologies, ranging from flexible, insulated cable; to semi-rigid and rigid metallic sheathed.

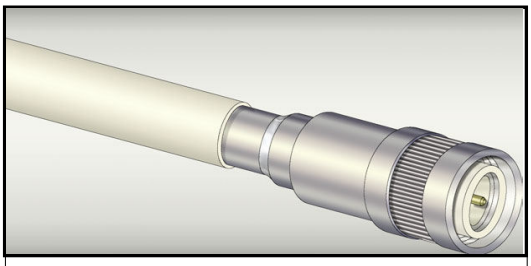
The selection of a particular coaxial cable technology involves the careful consideration of the specific electrical, mechanical, and environmental requirements of the project.



PREFERRED
FLEXIBLE CABLE

Cable dimensions and layout meet design requirements, with smooth bends and sufficient stress relief. Connector backshell is properly assembled and torqued. Cable insulation jacket is smooth and continuous, shield properly secured.

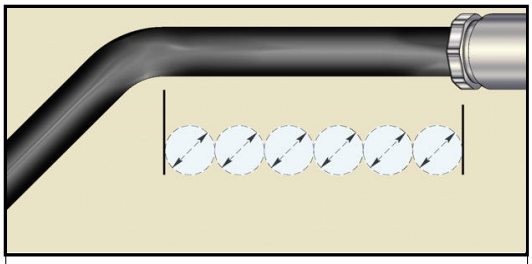
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.f]



PREFERRED
SEMI-RIGID / RIGID CABLE

Completed cable meets dimensional and layout requirements, with smooth surface, bends, uniform diameter, and sufficient stress relief. Connectors exhibit properly formed solder / weld fillets and are contamination / corrosion-free.

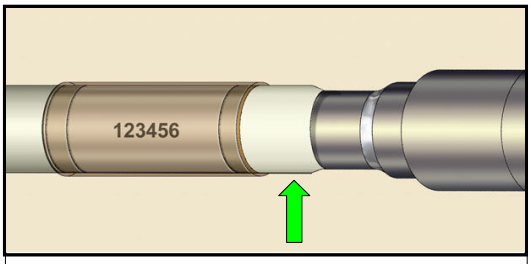
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.f]



MANDATORY
CABLE TERMINUS ALIGNMENT

A minimum straight length of six (6) cable diameters is required at each finished cable end to allow for clearance and strain relief, unless specified otherwise in the engineering documentation.

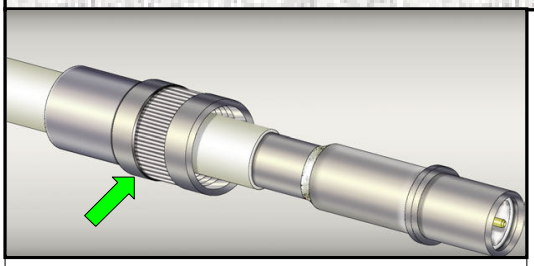
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
COATING / FINISH

In applications requiring the cable assembly to be coated or painted, the finish shall be applied to the outer sheath only, and shall stop at least 5 mm (0.20 in.) from the back of the connector. The connector shall not be coated or painted.

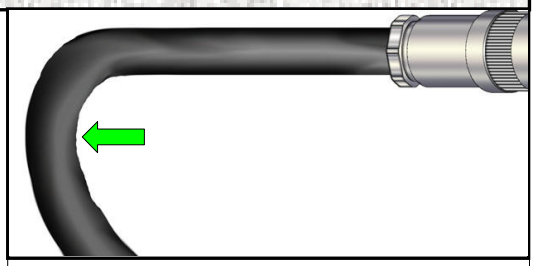
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
FLOATING NUTS

Semi-rigid / rigid cable assemblies shall be designed with connectors with retractable (non-captive/floating) coupling nuts, reducing the possibility that the cable assembly will be in a state of tension / torsion during connector mating.

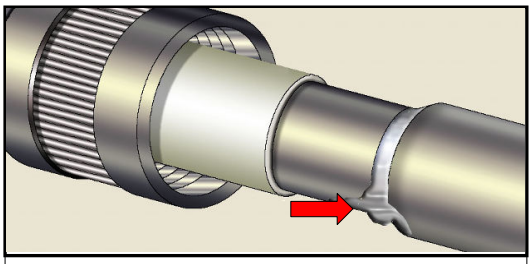
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
MINIMUM BEND RADIUS

Coaxial cables shall not be bent below the minimum recommended inside bend radius (6 diameters for flexible, 2 diameters for semi-rigid and rigid).

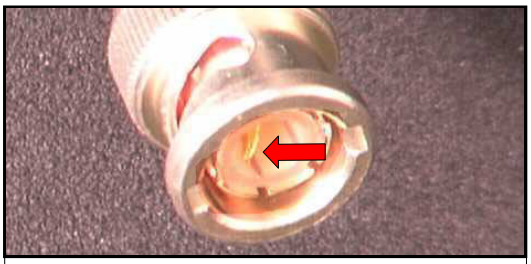
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS / IMPROPER SOLDER

The solder termination between the connector and the rigid / semi-rigid cable sheath shall exhibit a fully wetted, concave, smooth, and continuous fillet which extends completely around the termination periphery.

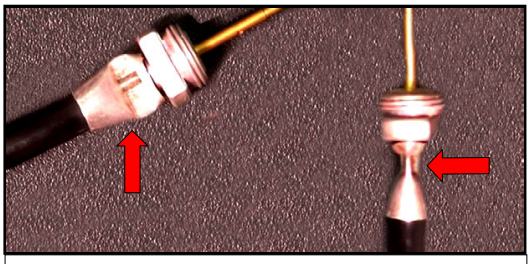
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ASSEMBLY
CENTER CONTACT(S)

Center contact location / orientation does not meet requirements for proper mating.

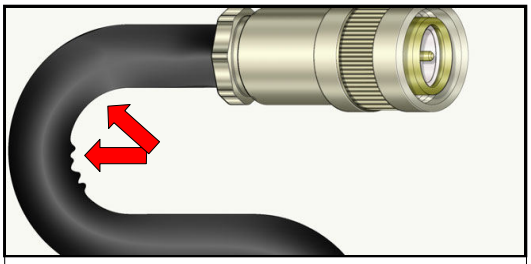
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.f.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ASSEMBLY
CONNECTOR

The connector has not been assembled per the manufacturer's or engineering documentation. The connector body has been crimped by the center pin crimp tool, crushing the dielectric.

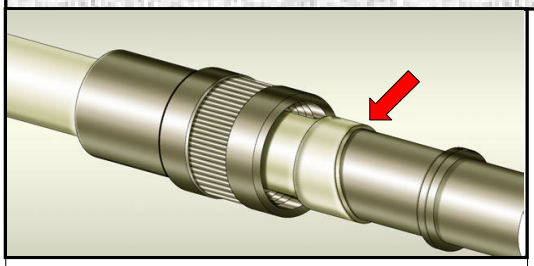
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.f]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER BEND RADIUS

The cable has been bent below the minimum radius recommended, resulting in ripples and stretching in the cable sheath and possible cold-flow of the dielectric, resulting in increased attenuation and/or shorting.

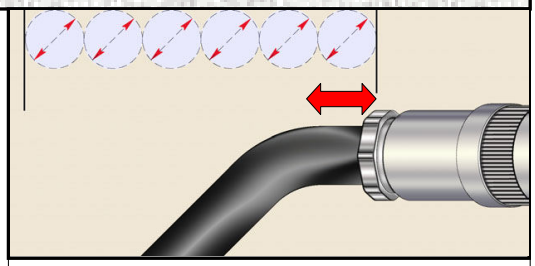
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COATING / PAINT

The coating has been improperly applied, resulting in interference during assembly and mating.

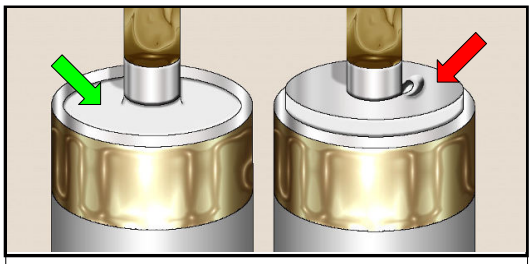
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TERMINUS SPACING

The termination exhibits an improper minimum straight section length between the connector body and start of nearest bend. This may impede assembly / mating, reduce strain relief, or increase cable impedance.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PROTRUDING DIELECTRIC

Care shall be exercised to minimize the protrusion or melting of the dielectric as a result of overheating during tinning and soldering operations.

Best Workmanship Practice

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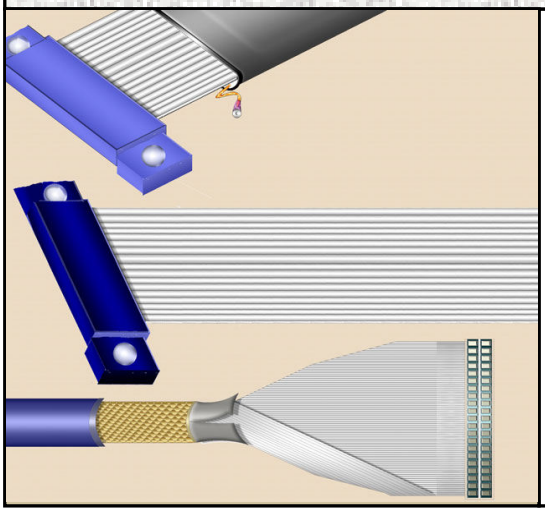
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

CABLE AND HARNESS
FLAT / RIBBON CABLE

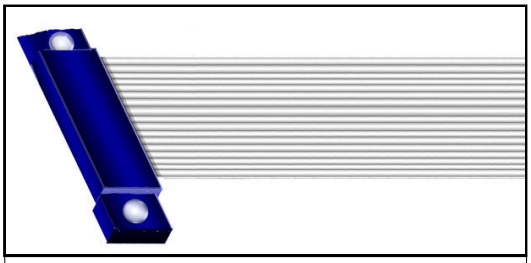


FLAT / RIBBON CABLE

Flat cable is a multi-conductor cable comprised of individually insulated, solid conductors, which are mechanically bonded in a parallel (flat) orientation.

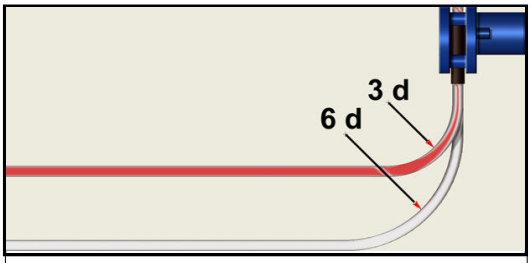
Ribbon cable is a multi-conductor cable, comprised of individually insulated, stranded conductors, which are mechanically bonded to each other in a parallel (flat) orientation.

Both cable architectures result in a highly flexible, compact, and robust cable, allowing mass termination of the conductors to high-density connectors by the insulation displacement contact (IDC) process.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

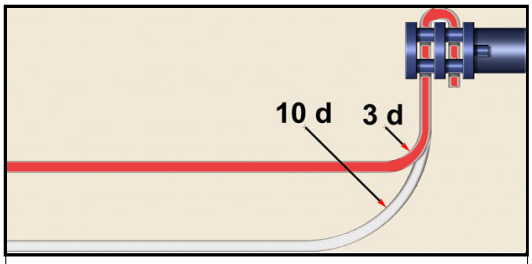
The cable assembly meets dimensional, layout, and design requirements. Conductors are properly aligned to respective termination pins and properly seated. The assembly exhibits a smooth, flat profile, with no visible damage to the connectors or the insulation.



PREFERRED BEND RADIUS COAXIAL RIBBON CABLE

The bend radius for coaxial ribbon cables shall not be less than six (6) insulated wire diameters short-term, ten (10) diameters long-term.

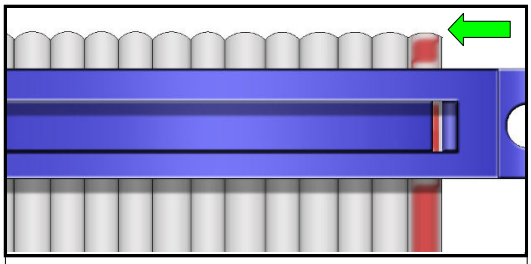
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21]



PREFERRED BEND RADIUS GENERAL

Flat and ribbon cables shall not be creased, folded, or bent less than three (3) insulated wire diameters (short-term). The recommended long-term bend radius is ten (10) diameters.

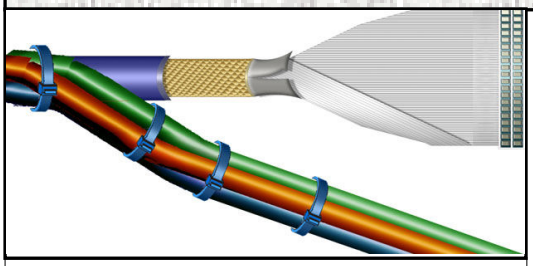
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21]



PREFERRED CABLE-END TERMINATIONS

Cable is properly aligned and oriented in the connector, and the cable end does not protrude in excess of 0.8 mm (0.031 in.) beyond the connector body edge, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

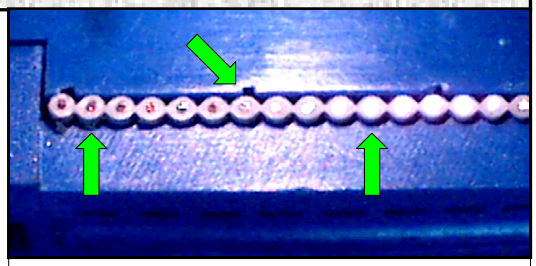
Best Workmanship Practices



PREFERRED
DISCRETE WIRE HARNESS DESIGN

Ribbon cables shall not be incorporated into discrete wire harnesses, unless specifically designed for that application. Ribbon cable suitable for harness installation shall be of a round-to-flat, transition / breakout type.

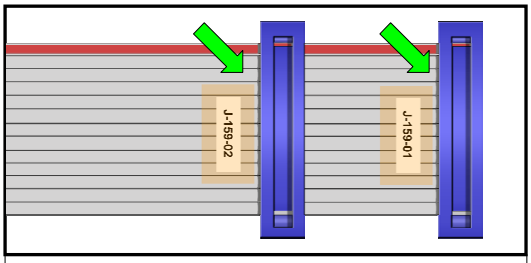
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
ELECTRICAL TERMINATION

The completed connector assembly shall result in the electrical termination of each conductor to the respective termination pin. The termination exhibits alignment to the connector fiducials (small notches / marks) and grooves.

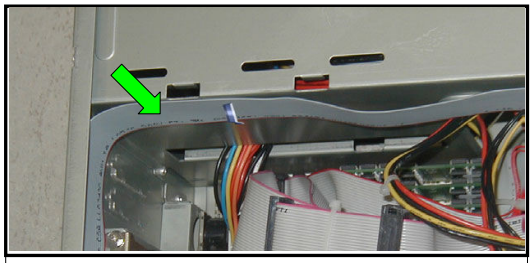
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
INLINE TERMINATIONS

Inline terminations shall be properly oriented and completed only in locations along the cable designed for such terminations, and where sufficient strain relief is available.

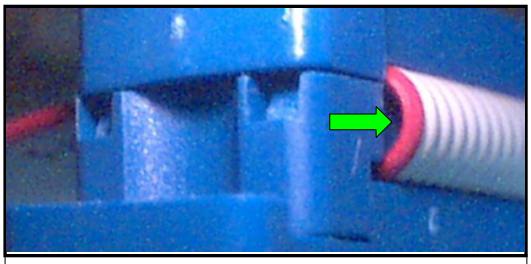
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
ROUTING

Ribbon cables should be routed along flat surfaces (either vertical or horizontal) whenever possible, shall be properly supported and secured by cable clamps, and should not be routed near high electrical noise, heat, or vibration sources.

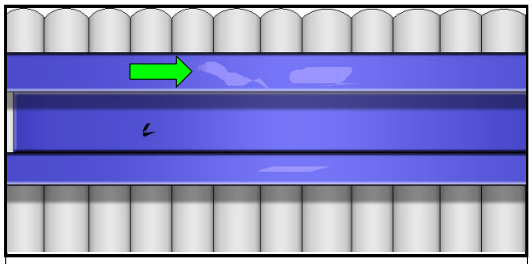
Best Workmanship Practices



ACCEPTABLE
BEND RADIUS

The cable exhibits proper bend radius at entry and exit of the strain relief clamp device.

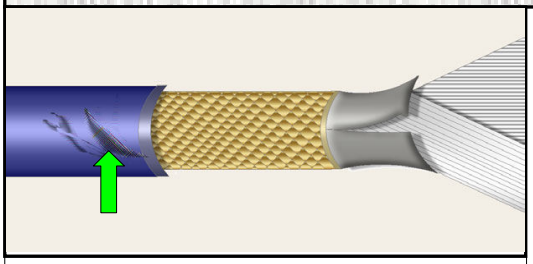
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.21], [7.3.22]



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION / SCUFFING
CONNECTOR

Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable, provided there is no impact to form, fit, or function, and there is no exposure of base metal.

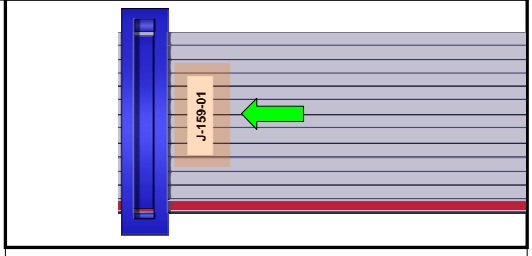
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION / SCUFFING
INSULATION

The cable does not exhibit evidence of insulation damage, such as cuts, nicks, scrapes, crushing, cold flow, or burns. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

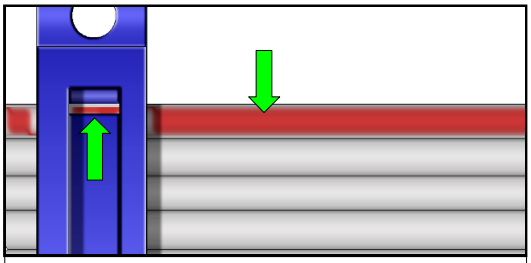
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.e.9]



ACCEPTABLE
IDENTIFICATION

Each cable / harness shall be identified by a permanent label / marking. Each connector shall be identified by a permanent label / marking affixed directly to the connector body, or to the cable adjacent to the connector.

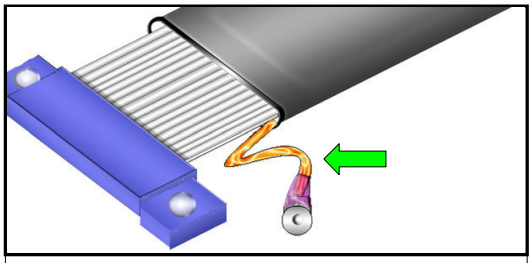
NASA-STD-8739.4 [14.2.1.], [14.2.2]



ACCEPTABLE
POLARIZATION STRIPE / RIDGE

The polarization stripe or ridge (if provided) is visible and properly aligned with the connector polarization mark.

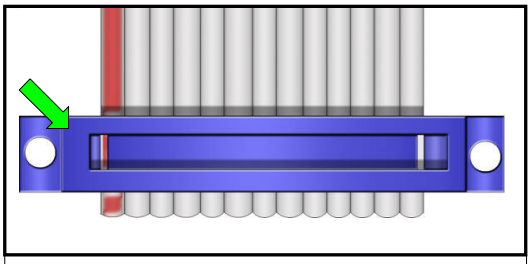
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.10]



ACCEPTABLE
SHIELD / DRAIN WIRE

Shield and drain wire are properly terminated, per engineering documentation.

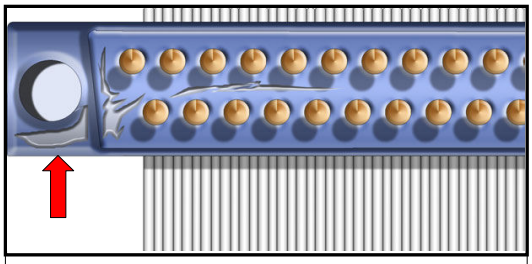
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.f.2]



ACCEPTABLE
STRAIN RELIEF

Connector-mounted strain relief clips shall be properly positioned and set.

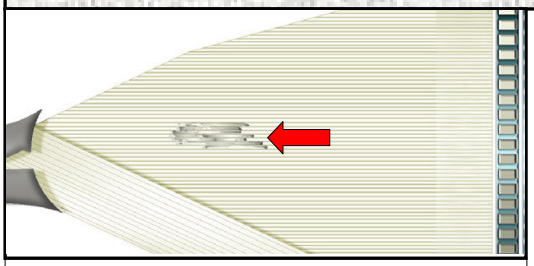
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.23]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE
CONNECTOR

Damage to the connector (i.e.: cuts, gouges, cracks, deformed features, bent pins, exposed base metal, etc.).

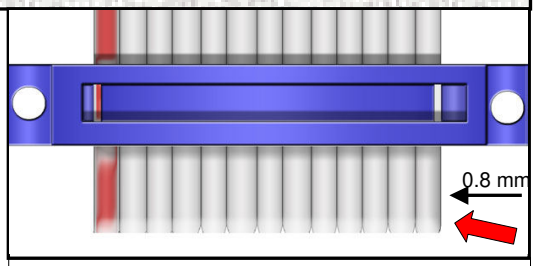
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE, INSULATION

Damage to the cable jacket, ribbon, or conductor insulation (i.e.: cuts, pinching, nicks, scrapes, crazing, crushing, cold flow, exposed conductors, punctures, thinning, or burns).

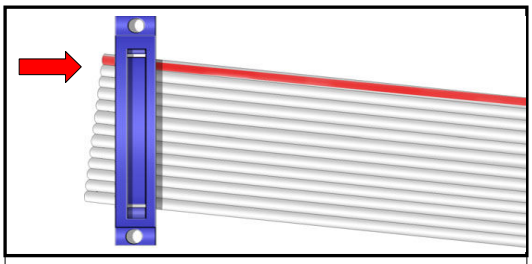
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.e.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE CONDUCTOR PROTRUSION

Cable conductor end(s) protrude in excess of 0.8 mm (0.031 in.) beyond the connector body edge, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

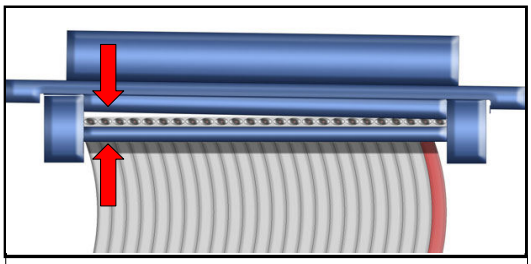
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ALIGNMENT

The completed assembly does not exhibit parallel alignment between the connector body and the cable, resulting in improper electrical termination of each conductor to its designated pin.

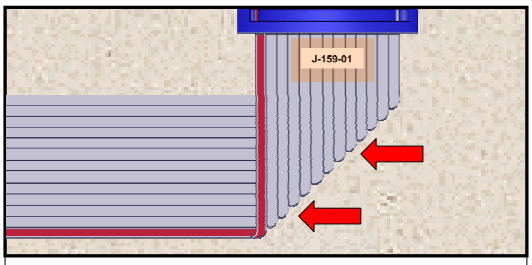
Best Workmanship Practices



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ASSEMBLY

The cable / connector assembly shall be terminated by the application of a uniform compression across the face of the connector, and shall exhibit parallel alignment between the connector base and compression cap.

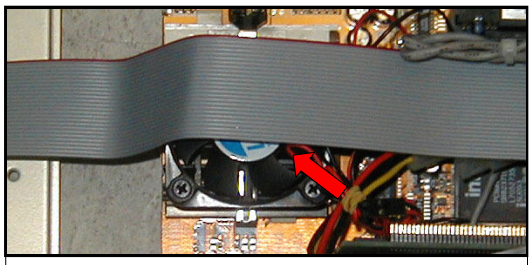
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER BEND RADIUS

The cable exhibits creases, folds, and/or kinks, which are less than the minimum bend radius, and/or which have visibly stressed the insulation material.

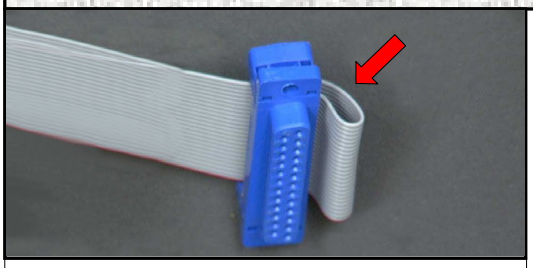
Best Workmanship Practices



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ROUTING

Flat and ribbon cables should not be routed near high electrical noise, heat, or vibration sources, or routed so as to not interfere with air ventilation flow patterns.

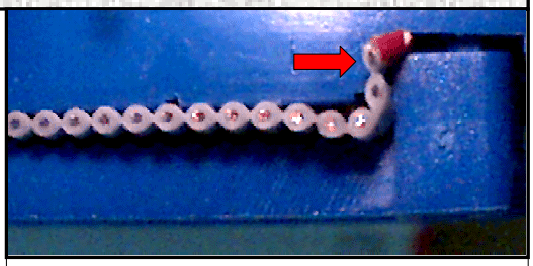
Best Workmanship Practices



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

Wires exiting from connectors shall be stress relieved. Connector strain relief clamps shall be properly set.

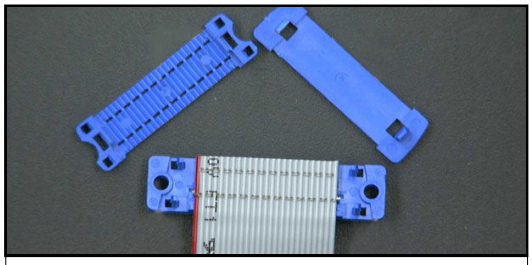
NASA-STD-8739.4 [7.3.22]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TERMINATION

The completed connector assembly shall result in the electrical termination of each conductor to the respective termination pin. The termination shall exhibit alignment to the connector fiducials (small notches / marks) and grooves.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING COMPONENTS

Missing connector parts (i.e.: compression cap, strain relief clip, polarizing key, etc.) shall be cause for rejection.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.17]

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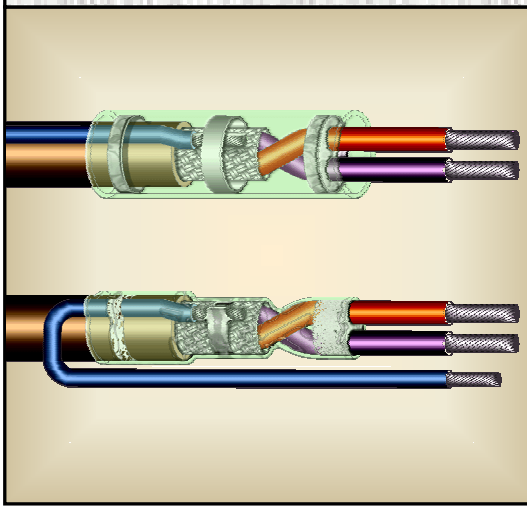
CABLE AND HARNESS
SOLDER SLEEVES



SOLDER SLEEVES

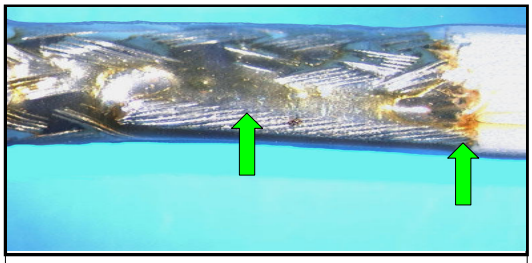
Solder sleeves are primarily used to attach a ground wire (lead) to the shielding braid of a shielded cable by means of a shrinkable tubing assembly having an integral solder preform.

Solder sleeves are also used to splice two or more conductors together in a parallel configuration.

See Section 4.01 “Cable and Harness, General Requirements”, and Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.

PREFERRED

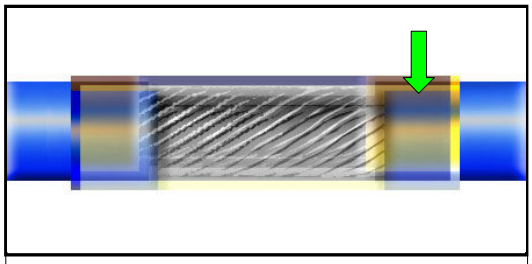
Solder sleeve has been properly installed and tightly shrunk. Strain relief is acceptable. Overlaps are of sufficient length to meet minimum electrical spacing. Solder fillet is visible, fully flowed, and smooth.



ACCEPTABLE
CLOSE-UP VIEW

The termination exhibits proper solder flow and complete wetting. There is evidence of a complete fillet between the ground wire and the shield. Individual strands are discernable. Minor flux entrapment is acceptable.

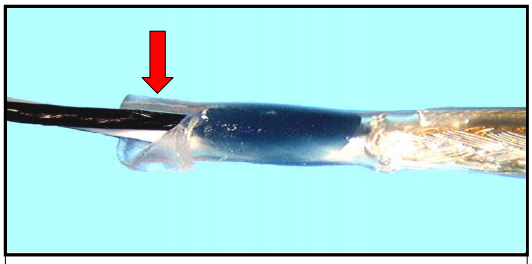
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.b], [19.6.1.g]



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION

The solder sleeve may exhibit slight discoloration resulting from the heating process. The sleeve shall not exhibit any damage.

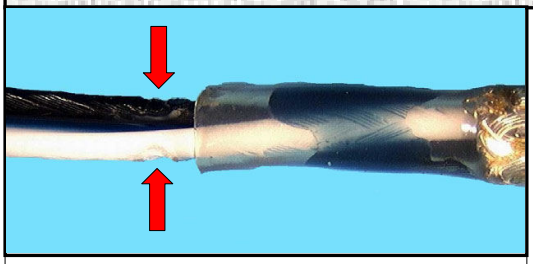
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.g.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED SLEEVE

Solder sleeves shall be free of cracks, cuts, crushing, gouges, punctures, and charred, melted or burned areas. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

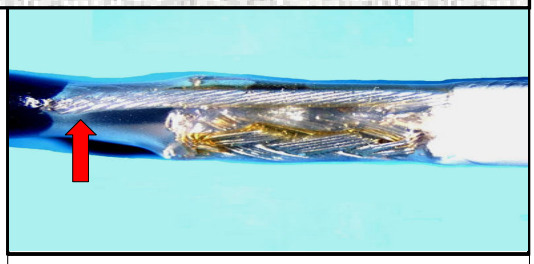
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.g.3], [19.6.2.g.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED WIRE INSULATION

Cut, crushed, gouged, damaged, nicked, burned, or melted insulation may result in reduced electrical isolation and/or short circuits. Slight scuffing or discoloration is acceptable.

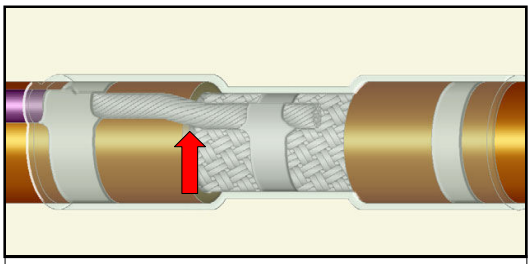
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.e.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE CONDUCTOR LENGTH

The ground conductor should extend a maximum of flush with the end of the stripped shield section.

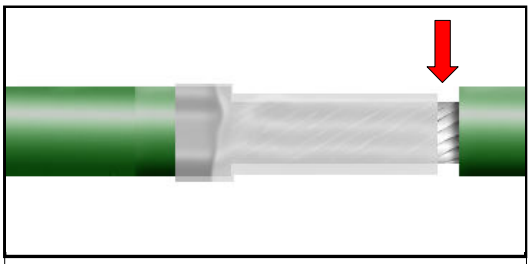
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE INSULATION CLEARANCE

The maximum insulation clearance shall be such that the end of the conductor insulation is even with the end of the cable jacket.

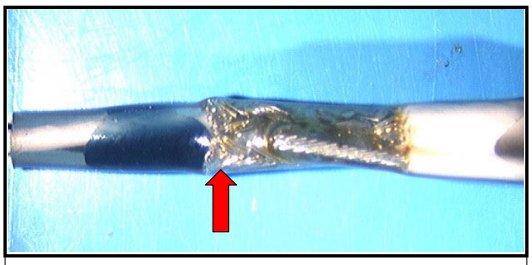
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED CONDUCTIVE SURFACES

Solder sleeves shall cover all exposed metal in the splice area. Improper positioning, movement during shrinkage, or improper sizing of the sleeve, typically results in exposed conductive surfaces.

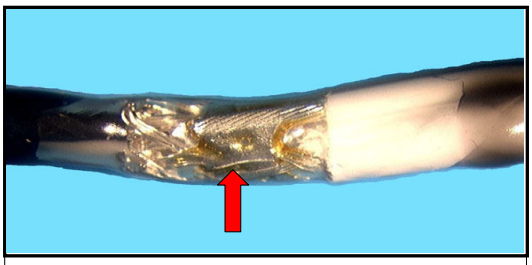
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.g.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LOCATION

Solder sleeves should be installed, such that the solder preform is approximately centered on the stripped section of the conductors, ensuring proper sealing and strain relief.

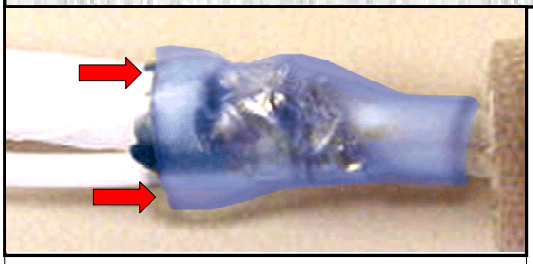
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE FILLET

The termination shall exhibit a complete, fully wetted fillet along both sides of the interface between the two conductors.

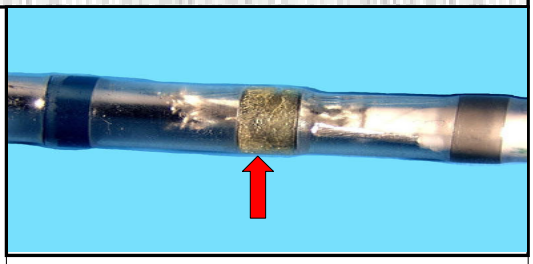
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.g.2], [19.6.2.g.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SHRINKAGE

The solder sleeve shall be completely shrunk to provide a tight fit and proper stress relief.

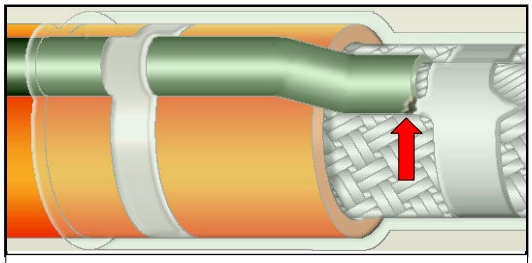
NASA-STD-8739.4 [9.10], [11.4], [19.6.1.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SOLDER FLOW

The solder preform has not melted and properly flowed. Typically this is caused by insufficient heat, insufficient dwell time during the shrinkage process, or use of an infra-red (IR) heat source.

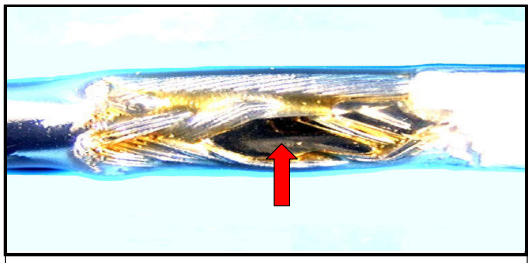
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.g]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT INSULATION CLEARANCE

The insulation shall not be imbedded in the solder joint. The contour of the conductor shall not be obscured at the termination end of the insulation.

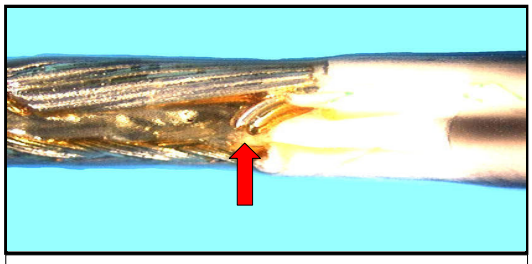
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.7.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
SEPARATED SHIELD STRANDS

Birdcaging or separation of the shield stranding may introduce unwanted electrical noise into the system, and may interfere with the proper installation of the solder sleeve.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.e.16]



UNACCEPTABLE
SEVERED / PROTRUDING STRANDS

Conductors exhibiting severed strands shall not be used. Severed wire strands may protrude through the solder sleeve, creating a shorting and reliability risk.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2], [19.6.2.g.7]

UNACCEPTABLE
TERMINATION NOT VISIBLE

The solder sleeve is opaque, prohibiting visual inspection of the termination. The solder sleeve shall be transparent or translucent to allow inspection.

NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.g.1]

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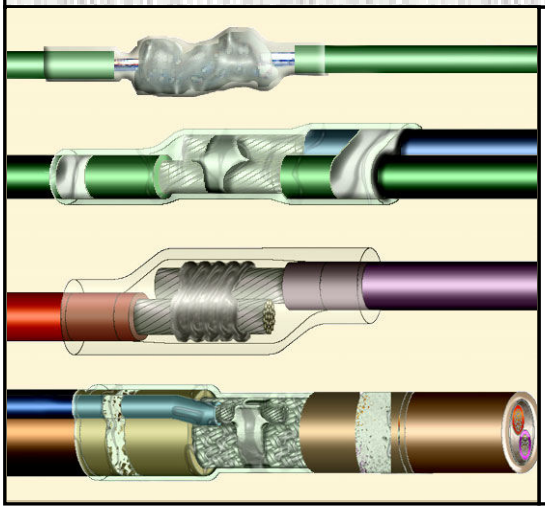
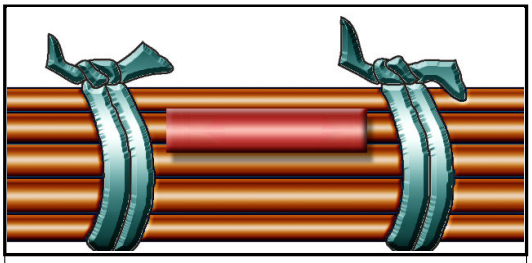
CABLE AND HARNESS SPLICES



SPLICES

A splice is the joining of two or more conductors together in a manner that results in a permanent electrical termination and mechanical bond, and may be completed by either crimp or solder process.

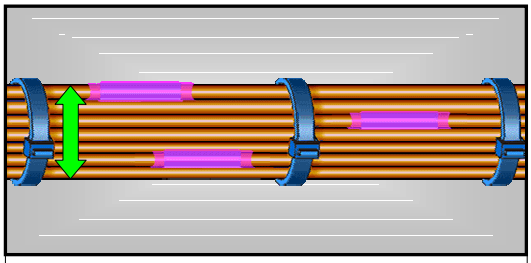
See Section 4.01 “Cable and Harness, General Requirements”, and Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The splice exhibits a smooth profile, proper strain relief, and is located in an area of the harness not subjected to flexure.

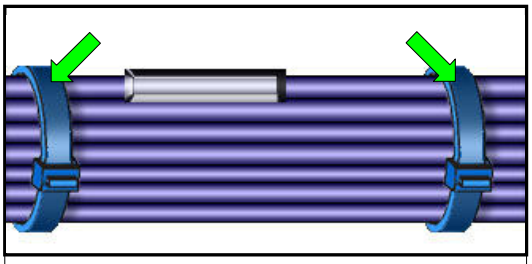
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SPLICE ASSEMBLY PROFILE

The location of splices shall be staggered to minimize the increase in profile to the harness. Final assembly profile shall not impact form, fit, or function.

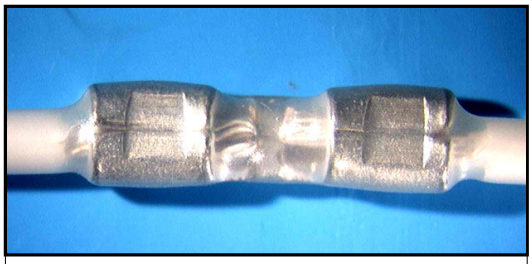
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SPLICE RESTRAINT

Cable ties / lacing shall be installed at both ends of a splice or solder sleeve, but placement shall not violate stress relief requirements.

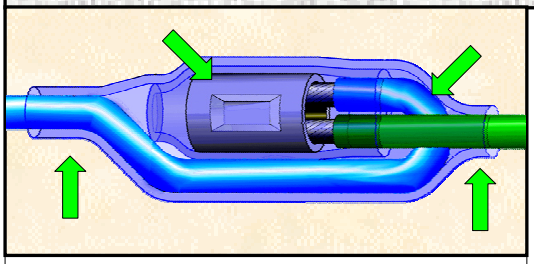
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CRIMP SPLICE – BUTT / INLINE

The contact has been deformed only by tool indenters. Indents are symmetrical and centered on the crimp barrel. No exposed base metal or other damage. Wire strand ends are visible. Proper insulation spacing (C).

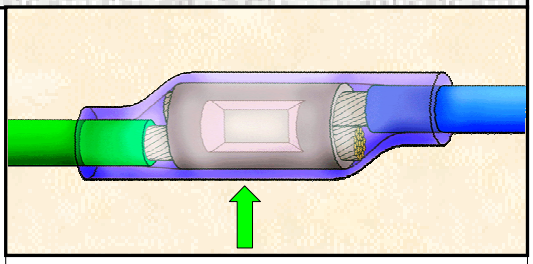
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
CRIMP SPLICE – END

Tubing is tight and symmetrical. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing, while providing strain relief. The termination is visible. Conductor(s) exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief.

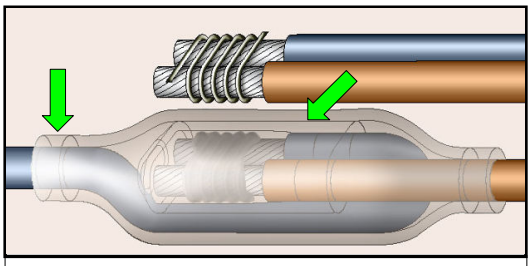
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
CRIMP SPLICE – PARALLEL

Tubing is tight and symmetrical. Overlaps meet minimum electrical spacing, while providing strain relief. The termination is visible. Conductor(s) exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief.

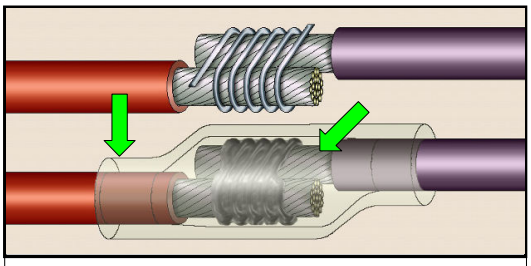
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
LASH SPLICE
END

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

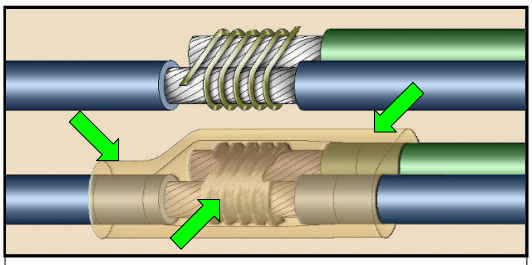
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LASH SPLICE
INLINE

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

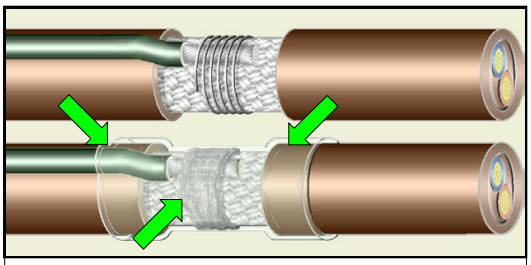
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LASH SPLICE
INLINE BRANCH

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

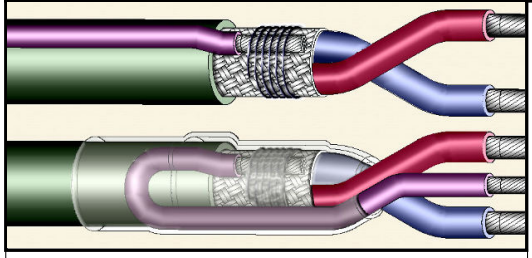
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LASH SPLICE
SHIELD TERMINATION (INLINE / RUNNING)

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

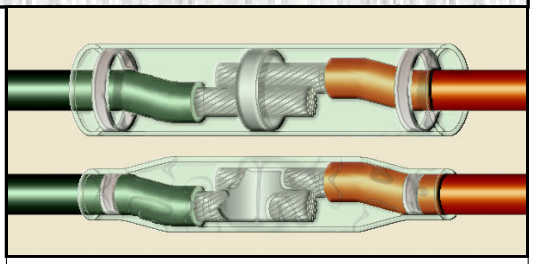
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LASH SPLICE
SHIELD TERMINATION (TRADITIONAL)

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief.

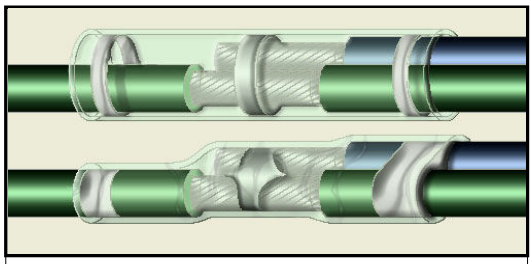
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE SPLICE
INLINE

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

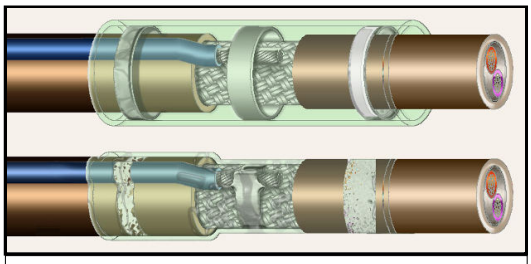
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE SPLICE
INLINE BRANCH

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

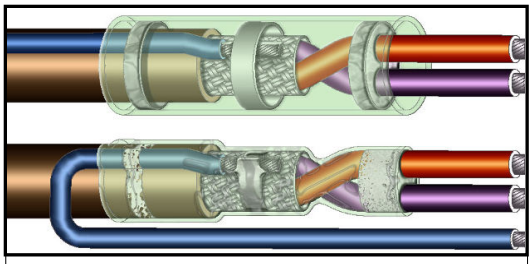
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE SPLICE
SHIELD TERMINATION (INLINE)

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

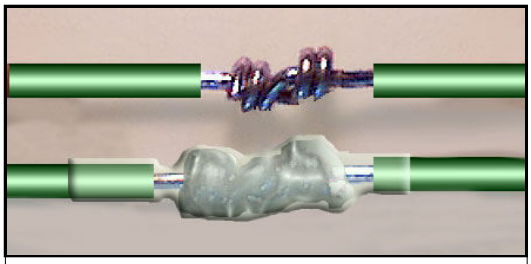
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.4], [19.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLEEVE SPLICE
SHIELD TERMINATION (TRADITIONAL)

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Conductor contours are discernable. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces.

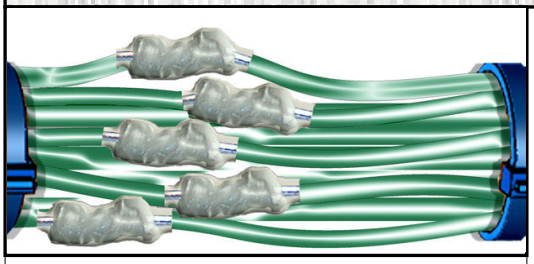
NASA-STD-8739.4 [11.4], [19.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
WESTERN UNION / LINEMAN SPLICE

The termination is fully wetted, smooth, and shiny. Tubing is tightly shrunk, with proper strain relief, overlap, and no exposed conductive surfaces. Western Union splices are used for solid conductors

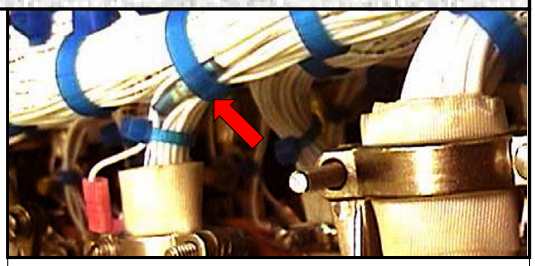
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE PROFILE

The location of splices shall be staggered to minimize the increase in profile to the harness. Final assembly profile shall not impact form, fit, or function.

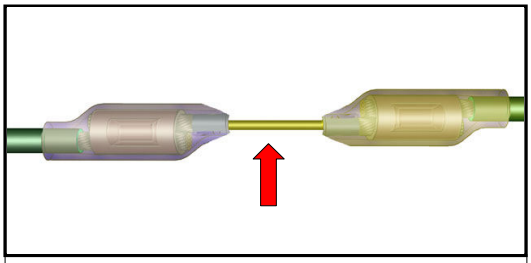
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER RESTRAINT

Cable ties / lacing shall not be installed across the splice / solder sleeve body, unless sufficient protection is provided to prevent compression damage to the termination and/or to the insulation of adjacent conductors.

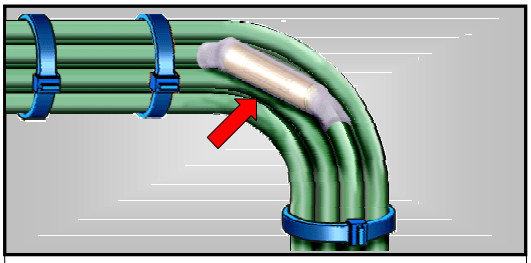
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SPLICE GAUGE / SIZE

Replacement conductors shall be of the same voltage and current rating as the original conductor.

Best Workmanship Practice

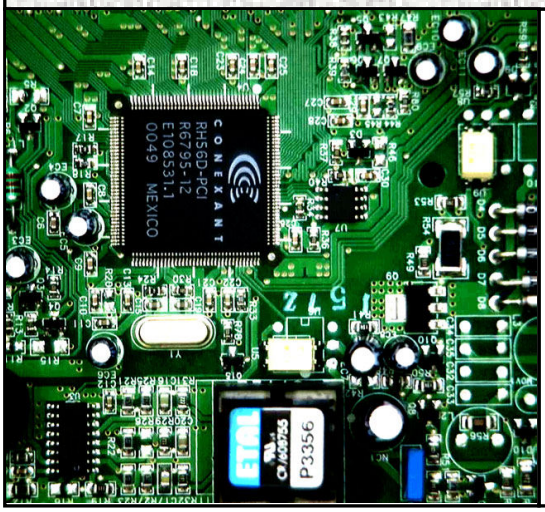


UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICES IN FLEXURE ZONE

Splices shall not be installed in areas where the harness is designed to flex.

Best Workmanship Practice

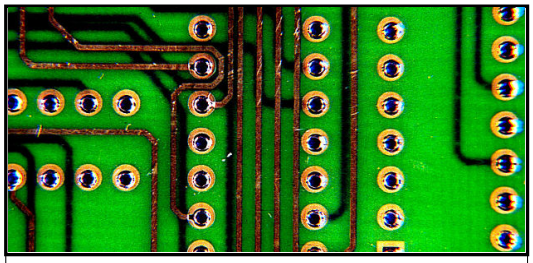
PRINTED WIRING BOARD (PWB) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



PRINTED WIRING BOARD (PWB)
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The printed wiring board (PWB) is an essential part of a total electronic circuit packaging system. The design requirements of the PWB must accommodate the various components required to achieve product functionality, while meeting packaging and other product design requirements.

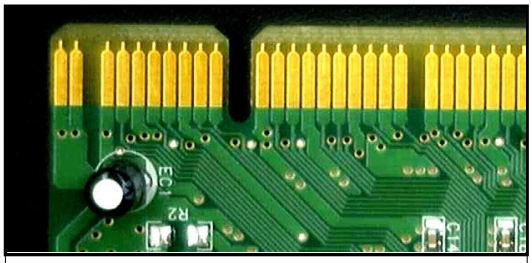
Boards shall be clean and damage-free, with sharply defined conductive patterns. Plating and solder mask shall be of uniform color and finish, holes properly located, markings sharply defined and aligned, and electrical / solder termination areas bright and shiny.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The printed wiring board is clean and damage-free, with sharply defined conductive patterns. Plated-through holes (PTH) and vias are properly located, are clean and unfilled, and exhibit smooth and uniform plating. Electrical termination areas are bright and shiny. Solder mask exhibits proper registration.

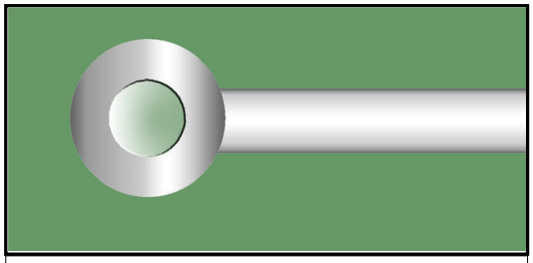
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
GOLD / PRECIOUS METAL CONTACTS

Contact surfaces are clean and bright, with a uniform and smooth finish.

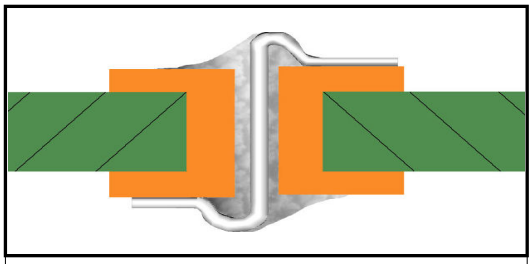
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
HOLE LOCATION / REGISTRATION

Holes (supported / un-supported) shall be centered in the lands and located per engineering documentation. Annular ring shall be concentric to the pad.

Best Workmanship Practice



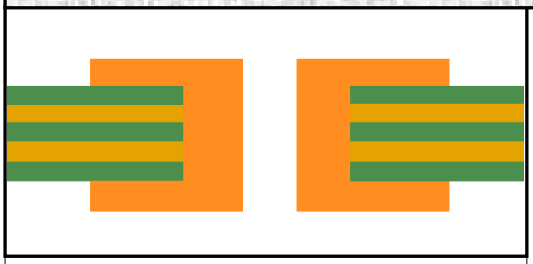
PREFERRED
INTERFACIAL CONNECTIONS (VIAS)
DOUBLE-SIDED PWBs

Vias in double-sided PWBs require the use of filler wire (Z-wire) for support if the PWB coupon has not been evaluated by construction analysis (micro-section).

NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.4.a]

NASA WORKMANSHIP STANDARDS

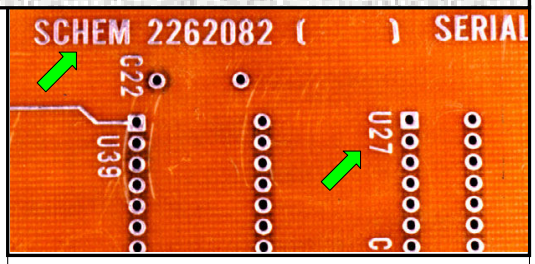
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION JOHNSON SPACE CENTER HOUSTON, TEXAS USA 77058	**Released:** 04.05.2002	**Revision:**	**Revision Date:**
	Book: 5	**Section:** 5.01	**Page:** 1



PREFERRED
INTERFACIAL CONNECTIONS (VIAS)
MULTI-LAYER PWBs

Vias in multi-layer PWBs do not require the use of filler wire (Z-wire), nor shall they be solder-filled. No dedicated effort shall be made to remove solder in unused holes.

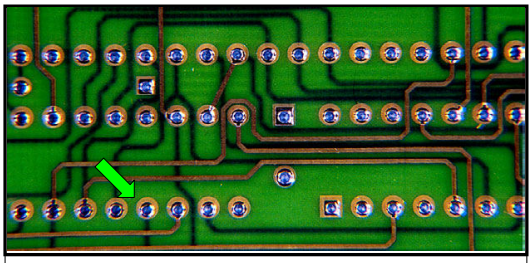
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.4.b]



PREFERRED
ETCHED LEGENDS / MARKINGS

Legends / markings are sharply defined, of uniform size and density, correct alignment and polarity, and meet minimum electrical spacing requirements. Markings do not touch or cross over solderable surfaces.

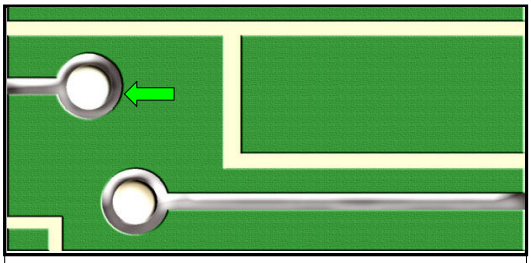
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SOLDER MASK / RESIST COATING

Coating is uniform in color and finish. Registration is correct. No blisters, scratches, voids, waves, ripples, wrinkling, bubbles, haziness, tackiness, or entrapped particles.

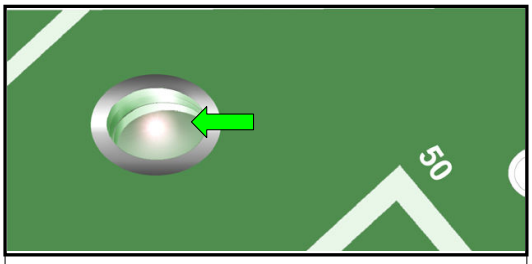
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SUPPORTED HOLES

Supported / plated-through holes (PTH) designated for lead insertion exhibit a smooth / even bore and plating, proper diameter, are free of resist, and have symmetrical annular rings.

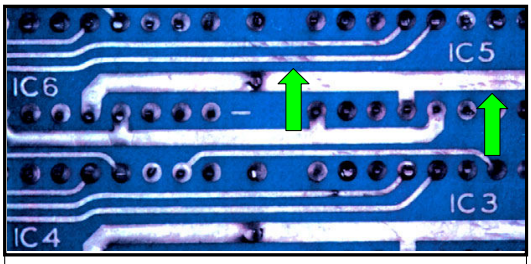
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
UNSUPPORTED HOLES

Unsupported / non-plated-through holes (NPTH) exhibit smooth / even walls, proper diameter, are free of plating, and have symmetrical annular rings.

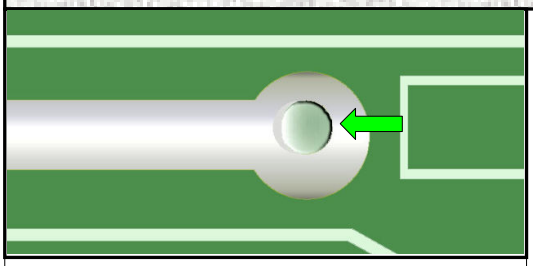
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORED CONDUCTORS

Slight dulling of clean metallic surfaces is acceptable, provided the surface conductivity or solderability is not affected.

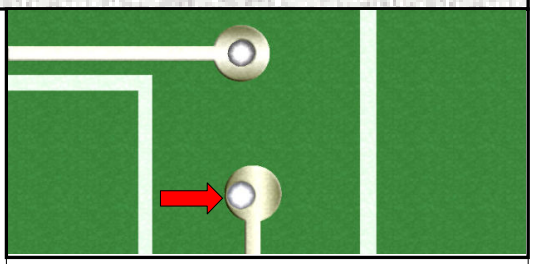
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ANNULAR RING

The hole is not centered in the land, however it is acceptable providing the minimum annular ring requirement is not violated.

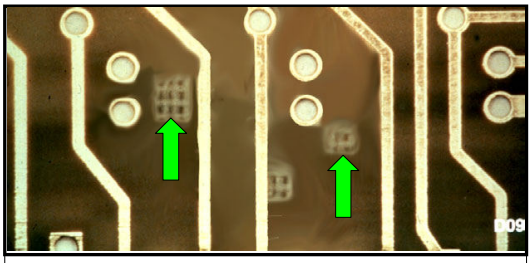
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT ANNULAR RING

The lower hole is improperly located, causing the annular ring dimension to be less than minimum requirements.

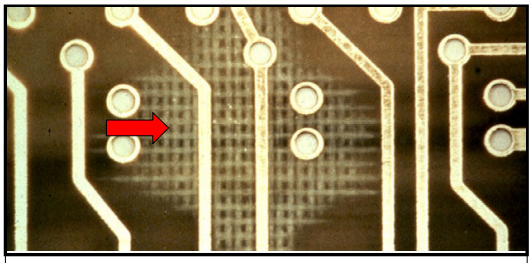
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CRAZING

Crazing (whitish, discrete spots or crosses below the laminate surface) which does not bridge uncommon conductors is acceptable.

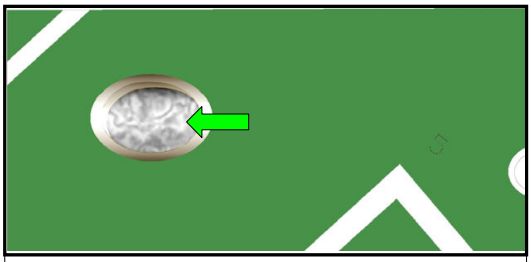
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRAZING

Crazing which bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

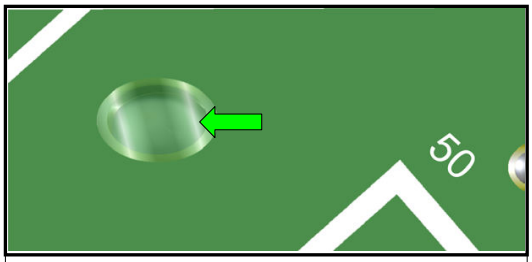
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE
EPOXY / SOLDER FILLED VIAS / PTH

Vias and plated-through holes, not intended for lead insertion, may be plugged by epoxy resin or solder, if documented on the engineering drawings.

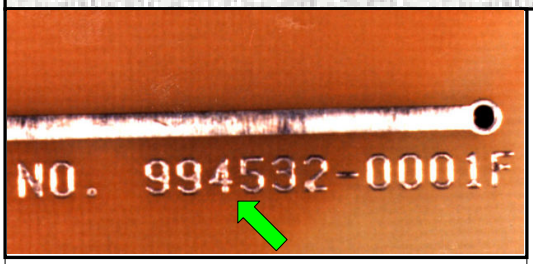
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
TENTED VIAS / PTH

Vias and plated-through holes not intended for lead insertion may be tented by solder mask, if documented on the engineering documentation.

Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ETCHED LEGENDS / MARKINGS

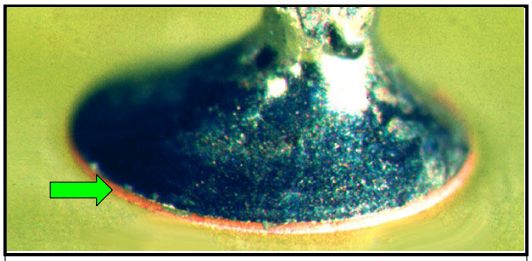
Legends / markings may exhibit slightly irregular definition, broken letters / lines, size or density, provided they are legible and/or their intent is clear.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
ETCHED MARKINGS / LEGENDS

Poor definition, improper alignment / polarity, missing characters, smudged, smeared, multiple-imaged, touch or cross over solderable surfaces, exposed copper, delamination, violate electrical spacing requirements.

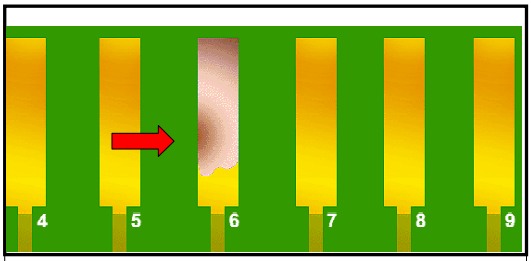
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Exposed base metal on the vertical edge of printed wiring conductors, lands, and pads is acceptable.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Defects or damage (cuts, nicks, gouges, scrapes, etc.) that result in exposed base metal (except for the vertical edges of circuit traces, lands, and pads) shall be rejectable.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.5]

ACCEPTABLE
LABLES

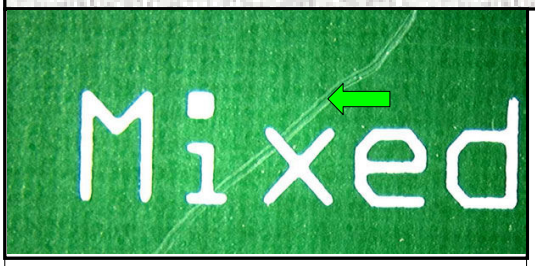
Labels shall exhibit a flat, smooth profile, legible graphics, proper placement, and adhesion. Labels shall be non-conductive, and shall not be placed over components, exposed circuit traces, vias, or solder terminations.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
LABLES

Labels which exhibit damage, improper placement, improper adhesion, are conductive, and/or are placed over components, exposed circuit traces, vias, or solder terminations etc. shall be rejectable.

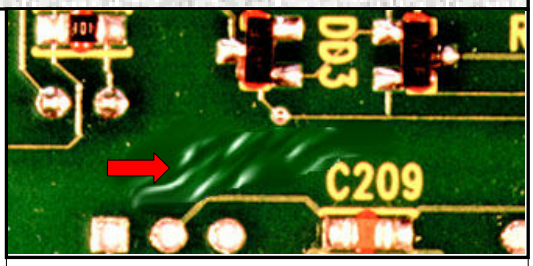
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAMINATE SCRATCHES

Scratches, scrapes, gouges, nicks, and / or cuts to the laminate that do not expose glass fiber or reduce electrical spacing are acceptable.

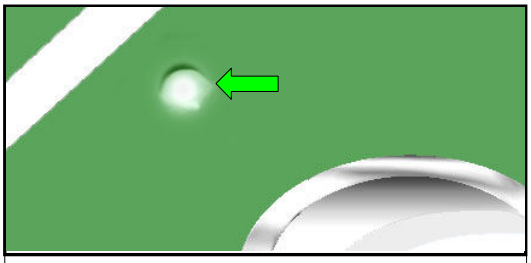
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.c], [12.8.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
LAMINATE SCRATCHES

Scratches that expose glass fiber are an indication of improper process control and/or handling.

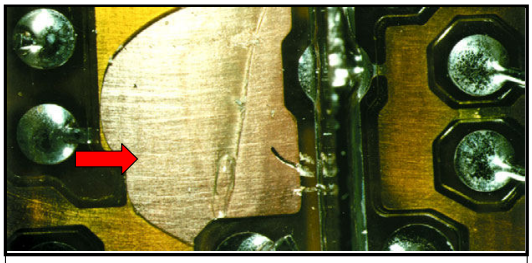
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.c], [12.8.2.c.6]



ACCEPTABLE
LAMINATE VOIDS

Laminate voids located a minimum of 0.003 inch (0.080 mm) from the periphery of a plated-through hole, and sized less than 0.003 inch (0.080 mm) in any dimension, are allowable.

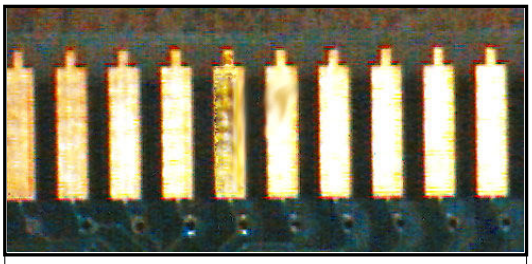
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
LAMINATE VOIDS

Laminate voids located less than 0.003 inch (0.080 mm) from the periphery of a plated-through hole, and sized greater than 0.003 inch (0.080 mm) in any dimension, are not allowed.

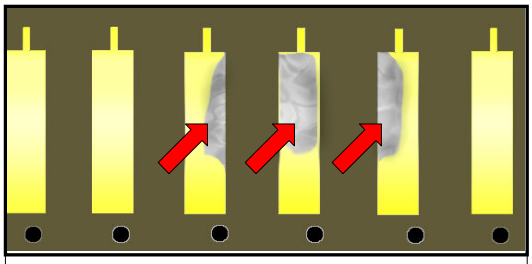
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PLATING

Plating is uniform and smooth. Luster may vary from bright to slightly dull. Minor scratches, scuffing, and solder on non-contact areas of fingers are allowable.

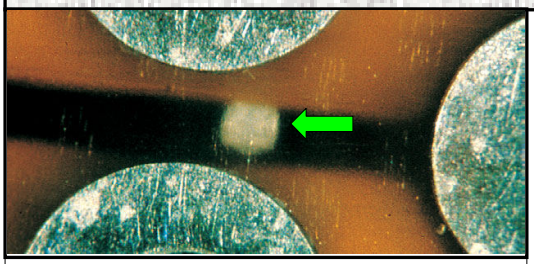
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IRREGULAR PLATING

Irregular or skipped plating is an indicator of improper process control, and/or contamination.

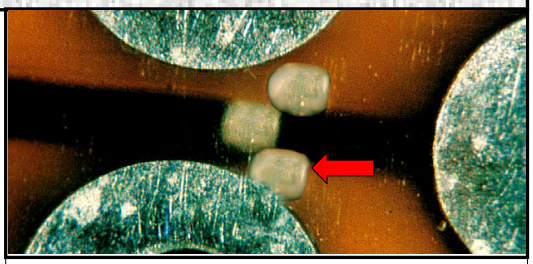
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Measling (whitish, discrete spots or crosses) below the laminate surface that do not bridge uncommon conductors is acceptable.

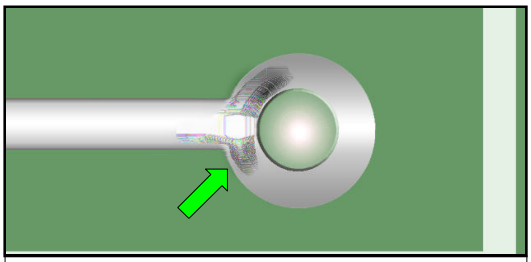
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Measling (whitish, discrete spots or crosses below the laminate surface) which bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

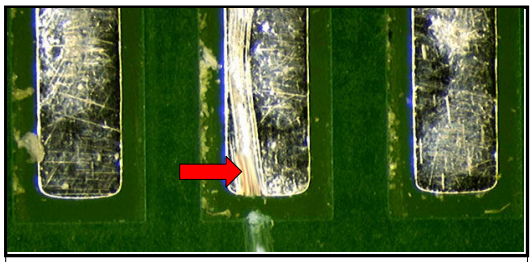
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH TOOL IMPRESSION MARKS

Scratches, scrapes, gouges, nicks, and / or cuts to the printed wiring pattern that do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area are acceptable.

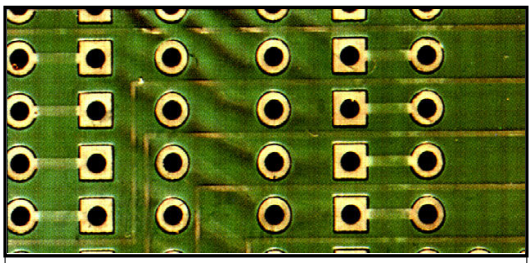
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
SCRATCHES (PRINTED WIRING)

Scratches that expose base metal are an indication of improper process control and/or handling.

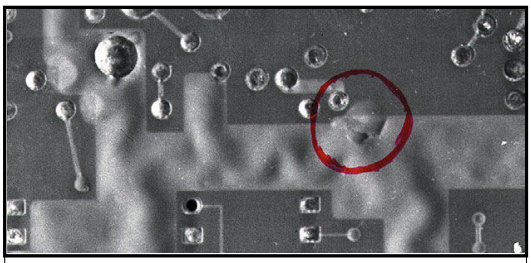
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER MASK

Minor waves, ripples, or wrinkling which do not reduce the coating below minimum thickness requirements. Isolated bubbles or voids, which do not bridge conductive patterns or reduce electrical spacing requirements.

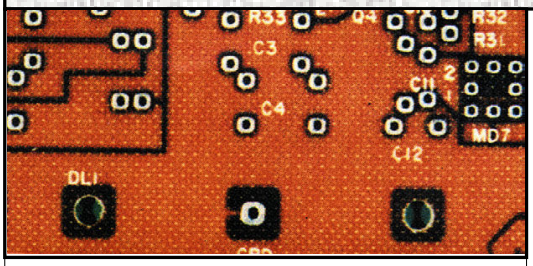
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER MASK DEFECTS

Solder mask tackiness, cracking, flaking, or separation from the substrate or conductors.

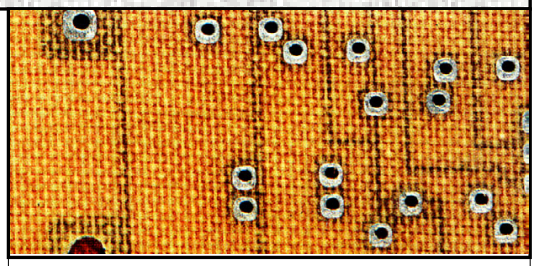
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.8]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.8]



ACCEPTABLE
WEAVE TEXTURE

Weave texture is a visual condition in which a weave pattern is apparent, but where the glass cloth is completely covered by resin and not exposed.

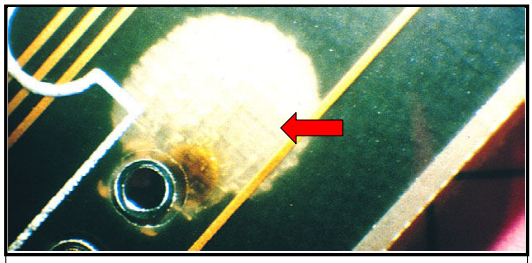
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED WEAVE

Weave exposure reduces the dielectric properties between conductive patterns to less than the minimum electrical clearance.

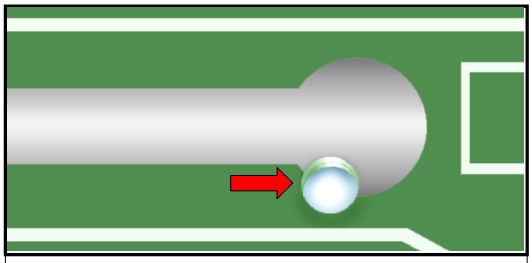
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
BLISTERS

Blistering between any of the laminate layers, or between the laminate and the metallization, is not allowed.

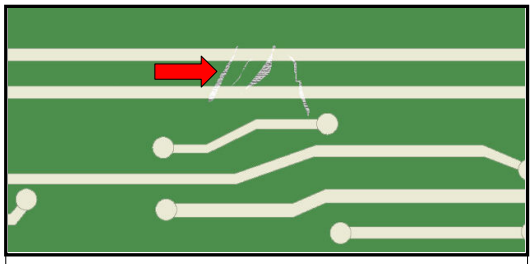
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.10]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
BREAK-OUT

Break-out of the annular ring is caused by misregistration during the drilling process.

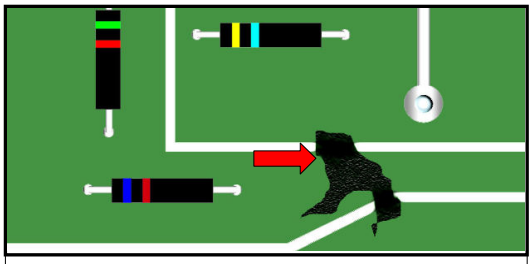
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Bridging of conductive surfaces is an indication of improper process control.

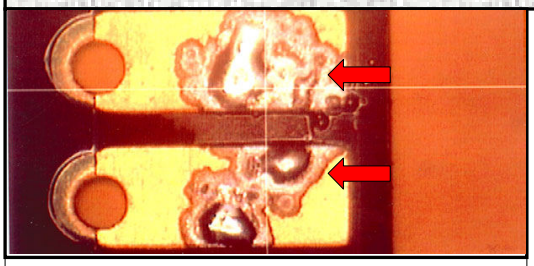
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.4]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination is a reliability concern.

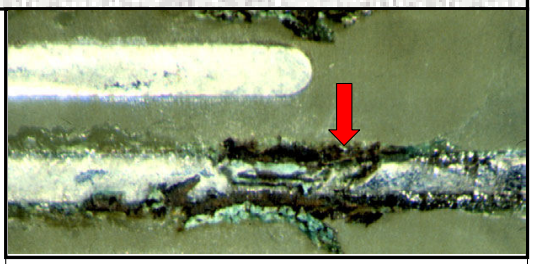
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATED PLATING

Plating is not uniform, smooth, bright, and/or shiny. Solder or other contamination on the contact area shall be cause for rejection.

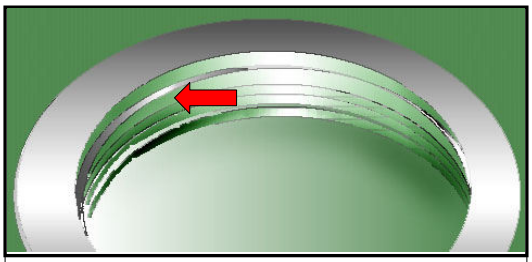
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CORROSION

Corrosion is a reliability concern.

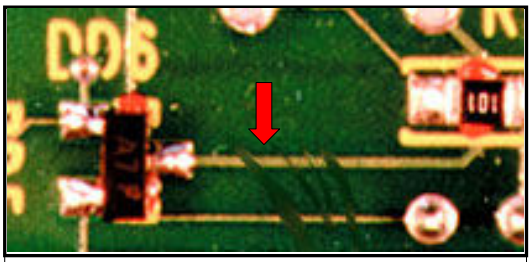
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.4.1.d]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKED / RINGED BARREL

Cracks or ringing in the barrel are cause for rejection.

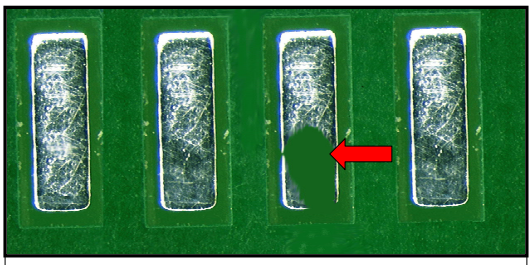
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CUT / DAMAGED PATTERN

Repaired or damaged printed wiring conductor pattern shall be cause for rejection.

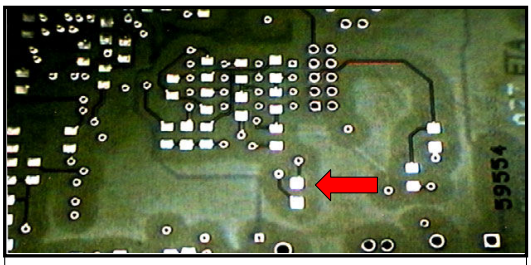
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.9]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
DEMETALLIZATION / LEACHING

Boards exhibiting leaching or loss of metallization shall be rejected.

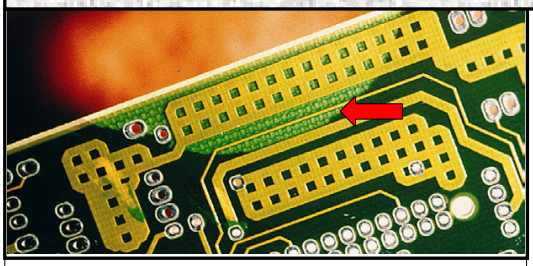
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION

Contamination or improper drying typically causes discoloration of the laminate or solder mask in the patterns depicted. Re-cleaning / demoisturizing may correct this problem, provided no other damage is apparent.

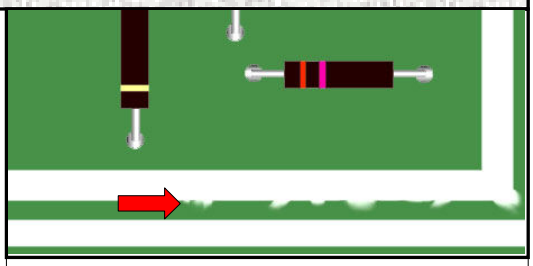
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE DELAMINATION

Edge delamination is an indicator of improper tooling, process control, or handling.

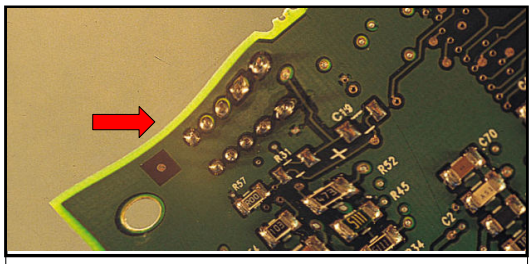
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE PROJECTIONS

Edge projections that reduce electrical separation below minimum requirements are rejectable.

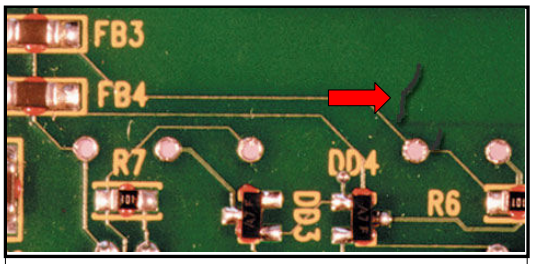
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE BOW / TWIST

Excessive bow or twist may inhibit proper mounting and may result in mechanical interference or shorting to adjacent assemblies or chassis.

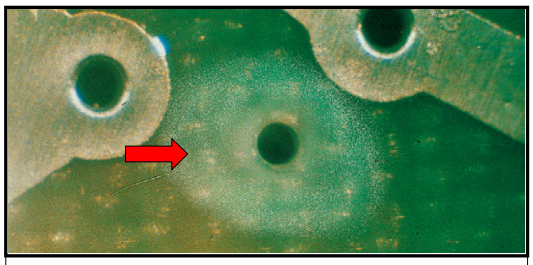
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED / PROTRUDING GLASS FIBERS

Exposed glass fiber in the laminate indicates a process control problem and is a long-term reliability concern.

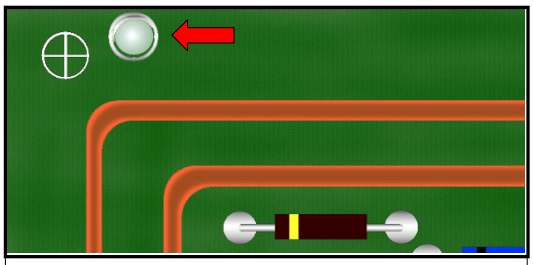
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
HALO EFFECT

A lightened area around a hole or via, typically induced by mechanical stress. Haloing which bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

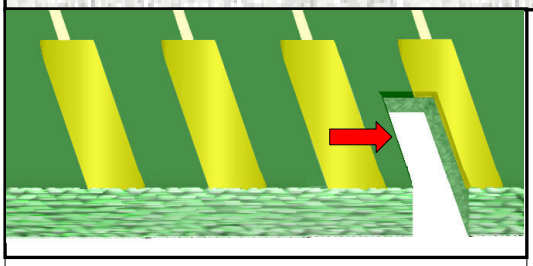
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HOLE LOCATION

The improper location of holes (i.e.: component lead, via, mounting, etc.) is caused by misregistration during the drilling process.

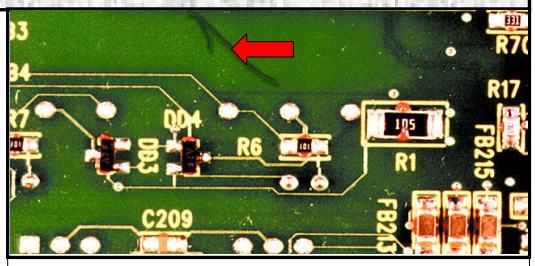
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER PUNCH-OUT / NOTCH / ROUTING

The improper location of punch-out, notching, or routing is caused by misregistration or improper process control.

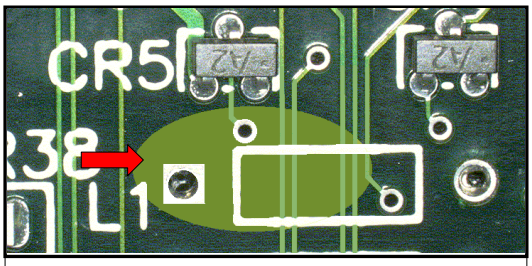
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
LAMINATE CRACKS

Cracks in the laminate are cause for rejection.

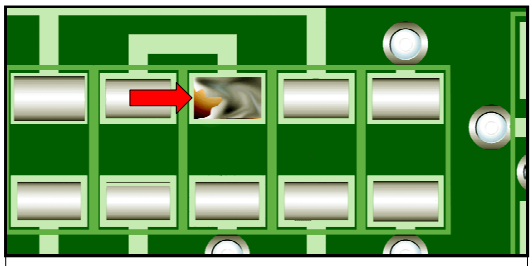
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
LAYER DELAMINATION

Delamination between any of the laminate layers, or between the laminate and the metallization, is not allowed.

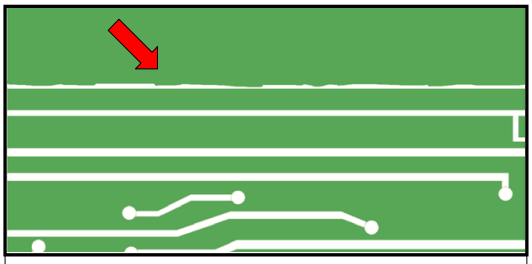
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
NON-WETTING

Tin, tin/lead reflowed or solder coated surfaces, exhibiting non-wetting on any conductive surface where a solder connection will be required shall be rejected.

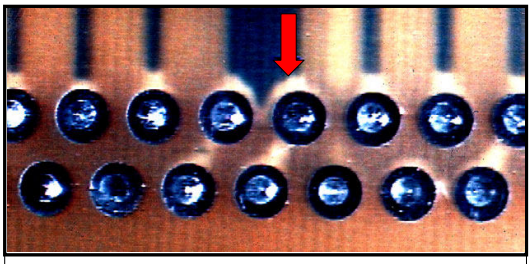
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
OVER-ETCH

Conductors that are over-etched are incapable of carrying the designed current load, and are susceptible to reduced reliability.

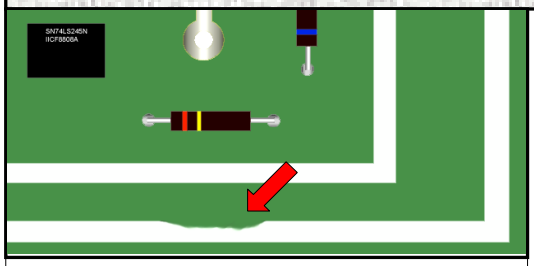
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PINK RING

Pink ring is caused by a thinning of the oxide coating on the copper layer in the through-hole / inner-layer interface zone, and is considered an indicator of a process control problem.

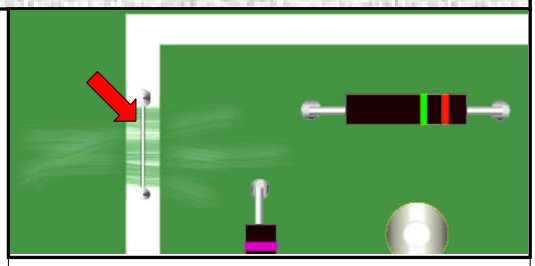
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
REDUCED CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA

Conductors that exhibit reductions in cross-sectional area are incapable of carrying the designed current load, and are susceptible to reduced reliability.

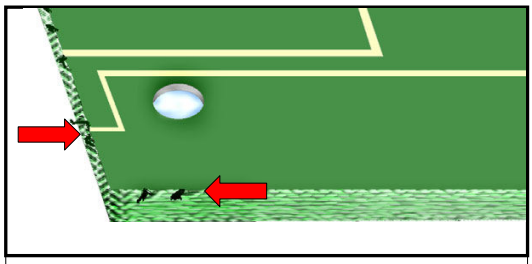
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
REPAIRED CONDUCTOR PATTERN

Repairs to damaged printed wiring conductor pattern shall only be made after authorization, and by approved process.

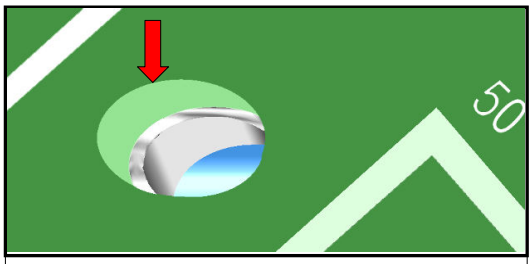
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.9]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
ROUGH / UNEVEN EDGES (LAMINATE)

Edges which are rough or uneven present a handling, or sharp edge / protrusion hazard. Additionally, the presence of a rough or uneven edge may increase the potential for delamination of multi-layer boards.

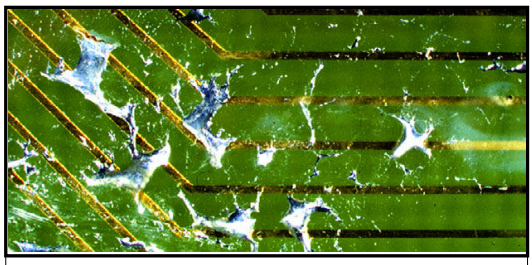
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER MASK MISREGISTRATION

Solder mask misregistration violating minimum annular ring requirements. Presence of mask material in plated-through holes designated to be soldered.

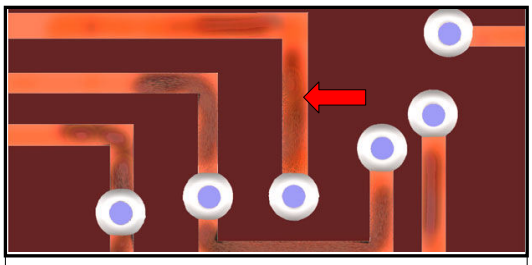
Best Workmanship Practices



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SPLATTER / WEBBING

Solder splatter and webbing is typically caused by moisture contamination or improper laminate bake-out, and is a reliability and short-circuit concern.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
UNDER-ETCH

Under-etch is an indicator of improper process control / improper chemistry during etching. Under-etch can result in bridging between traces, resulting in short circuits.

Best Workmanship Practice

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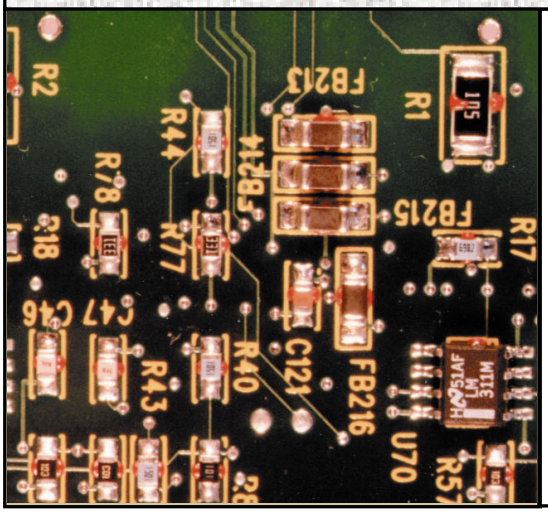
PRINTED WIRING BOARD
RIGID LAMINATE

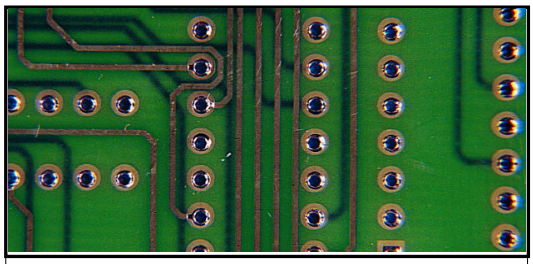


RIGID LAMINATE

A rigid printed wiring board is a board construction method using only rigid base materials to produce what is classically known as a printed wiring board (PWB).

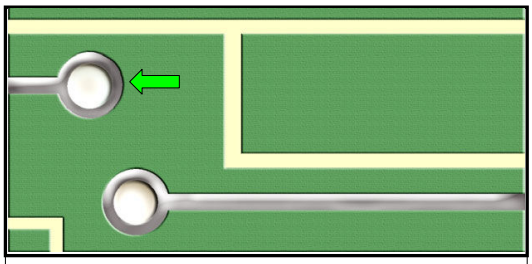
The printed board may be single-sided, double-sided with or without plated-through holes, multi-layer with plated-through holes, multilayer with or without buried / blind vias, and metal core.

See Section 5.01 “Printed Wiring Board, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

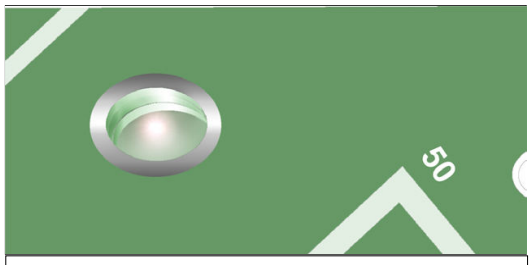
Board is clean, flat, and damage-free. Conductive patterns are sharply defined. Plating and solder mask are of uniform color and finish, holes are properly located, markings are sharply defined and aligned, and electrical / solder termination areas are bright and shiny.



PREFERRED
SUPPORTED HOLES

Supported / plated-through holes (PTH) designated for lead insertion exhibit a smooth / even bore and plating, proper diameter, are free of resist, and have symmetrical annular rings.

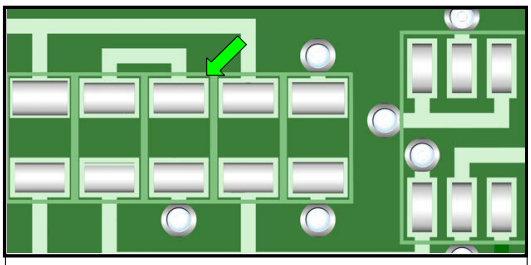
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
UNSUPPORTED HOLES

Unsupported / non-plated-through holes (NPTH) exhibit smooth / even walls, proper diameter, are free of plating, and have symmetrical annular rings.

Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SURFACE MOUNT TERMINATION PADS

Electrical / solder termination areas are clean, bright and shiny. Solder mask is of uniform color, finish, and orientation. Markings are sharply defined and properly aligned.

Best Workmanship Practice

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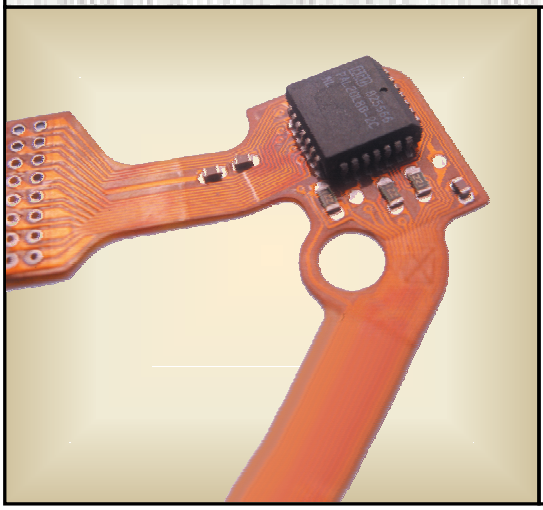
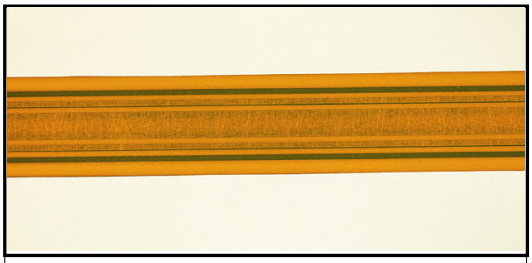
PRINTED WIRING BOARD
FLEXIBLE LAMINATE



FLEXIBLE LAMINATE

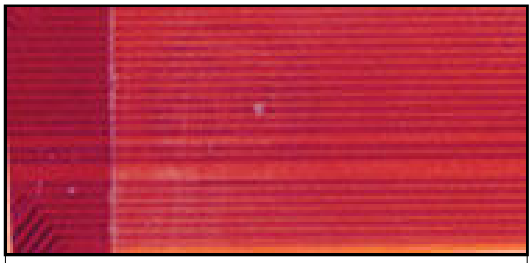
The thin films used in flexible circuitry offer significant weight and space savings over traditional rigid designs, and allow the development of printed boards that can be bent and folded in three-dimensional (3-D) configurations. Flexible boards may be single, double, or multi-layer; may contain through-hole, surface mount, or mixed technology; and, can be constructed wholly of flex or a combination of both flex and rigid (see rigid-flex, section 5.04).

See Section 5.01 “Printed Wiring Board, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
GENERAL

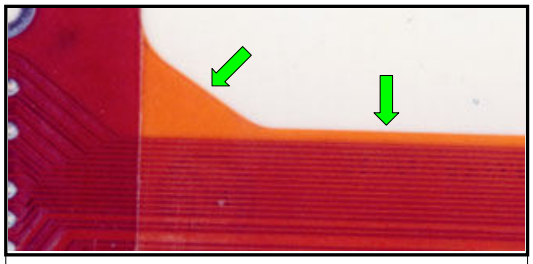
Flexible circuit is clean, smooth, of uniform thickness, and free of damage. Solderable surfaces are clean and bright. Markings are legible and properly oriented.



PREFERRED
COVERFILM

The coverfilm is smooth, clean, and of uniform thickness. There is no evidence of bubbles, creases, delamination, entrapped particles, gouges, tears, or ripples. Alignment and registration are correct.

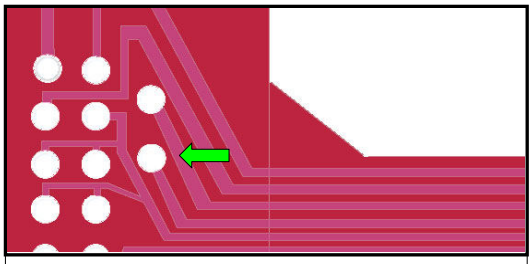
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
TRIMMED EDGE

The trimmed edge shall be free of burrs, nicks, delamination, or tears. Minimum edge to conductor spacing shall be maintained.

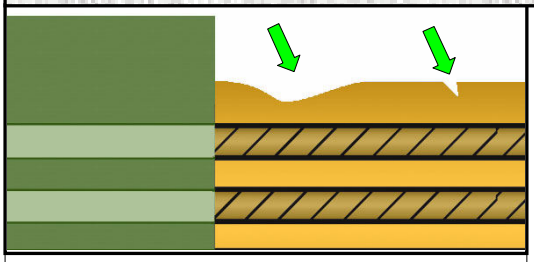
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
COVERFILM REGISTRATION

The coverfilm is aligned and registered within engineering specification. All annular ring cutouts are centered, and there is no evidence of unwanted material on land areas.

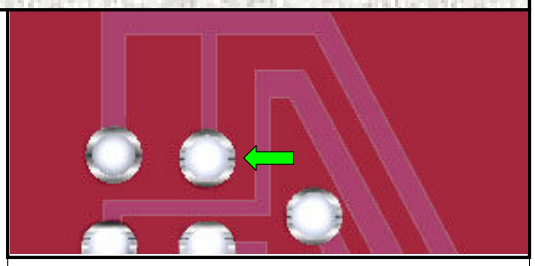
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
EDGE NICKS

Nicks along the edges of the flexible printed wiring, cutouts, and unsupported holes are acceptable, provided minimum edge to conductor spacing is maintained and damage is within agreed-upon limits.

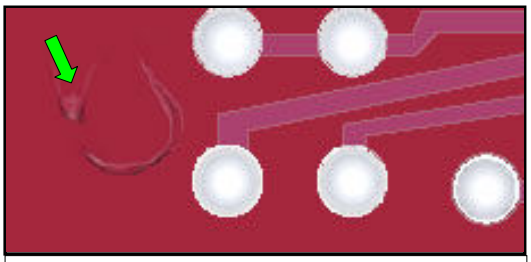
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PLATED SURFACES

Plating is uniform, smooth, and shiny. Holes are smooth and clean. No evidence of solder wicking / plating migration.

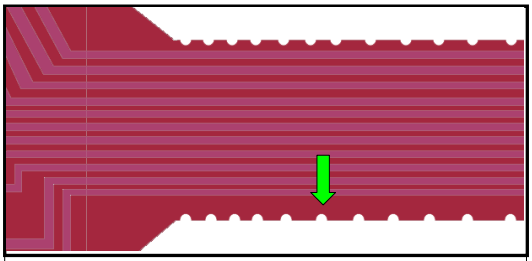
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SURFACE ROUGHNESS / SCUFFING

Minor roughness or scuffing of the laminate surface is acceptable, provided the damage does not reduce reliability or interfere with the design of service / operability.

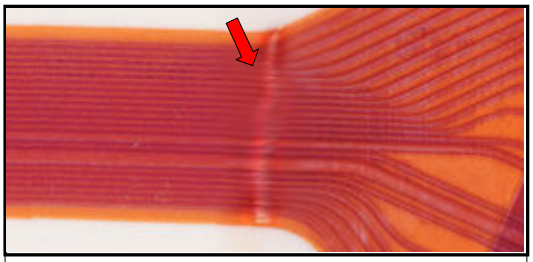
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
TIE-IN TAB TEARS

Minor nicks and tears that result from the use of tie-in tab design are acceptable, provided the damage does not reduce edge to conductor spacing below minimum requirements, or exceed the damage requirement agreement.

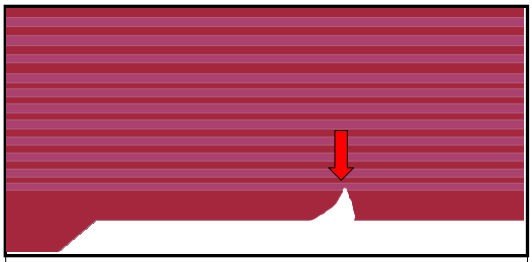
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CREASES

Creases reduce the current carrying capability and reliability of the printed conductors and the bond integrity of the laminate. Flexible circuits shall exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief.

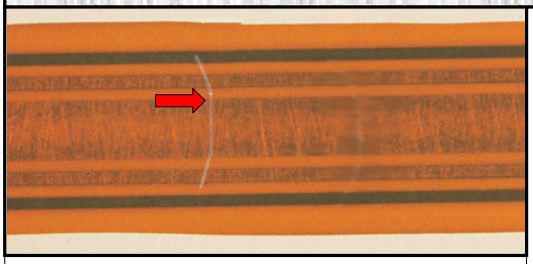
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EDGE NICKS

Nicks along the edges of the flexible printed wiring, cutouts, and unsupported holes which reduce minimum edge to conductor spacing below minimum requirements, or expose conductive surfaces, are unacceptable.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FOREIGN MATERIAL IN COVERCOAT

Foreign material under the covercoat represents a contamination and reliability concern.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
PHYSICAL DAMAGE

Cuts, nicks, gouges, tears, or other physical damage that result in exposed circuitry or reduce electrical separation below minimum requirements are unacceptable.

Best Workmanship Practice

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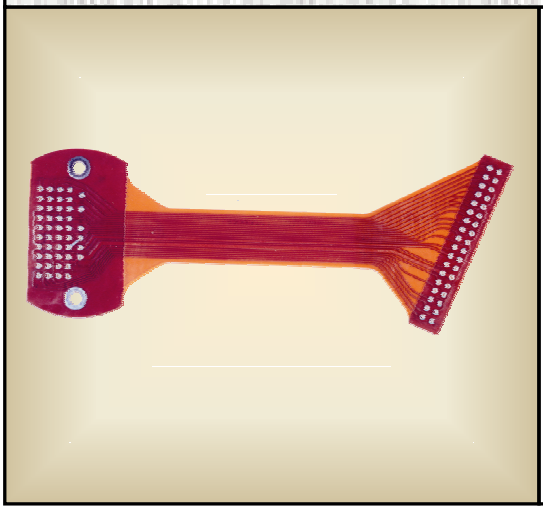
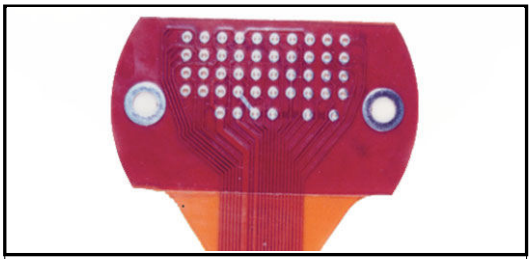
PRINTED WIRING BOARD
RIGID-FLEXIBLE LAMINATE



RIGID-FLEXIBLE LAMINATE

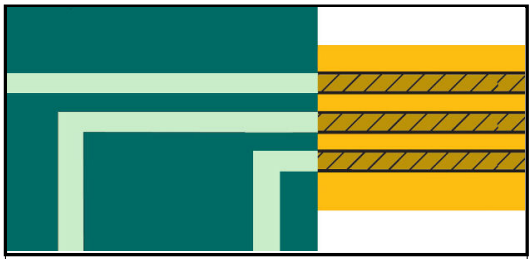
Rigid – Flexible Laminate (Rigid-flex) incorporates two printed wiring board technologies (rigid and flexible), allowing the development of rigid printed boards with flexible printed board interconnects, which allow the system to be bent and folded, or stacked, in three-dimensional (3-D) configurations.

See Sections 5.01 “Printed Wiring Board, General Requirements”, through 5.03 “Printed Wiring Board, Flexible Laminate” for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
GENERAL

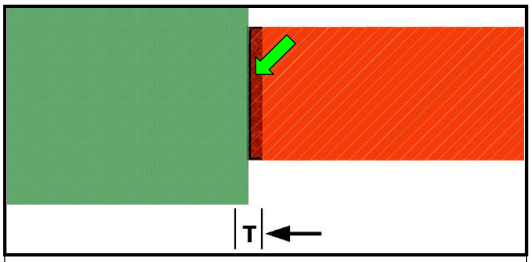
Flexible and rigid circuits are clean, smooth, of uniform thickness, and free of damage. Solderable surfaces are clean and bright. Markings are legible and properly oriented.



PREFERRED
RIGID / FLEX REGISTRATION

The flex laminate is perfectly aligned and registered to the printed laminate.

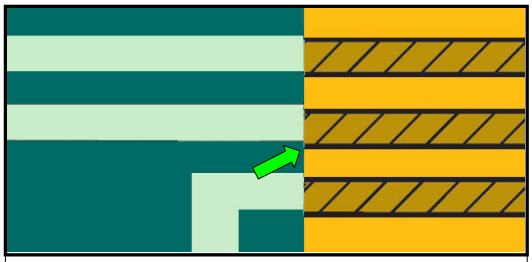
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
TRANSITION ZONE (T)

The transition zone between the rigid and flexible laminates is smooth, of uniform thickness, and free of damage, deformation, or contaminants.

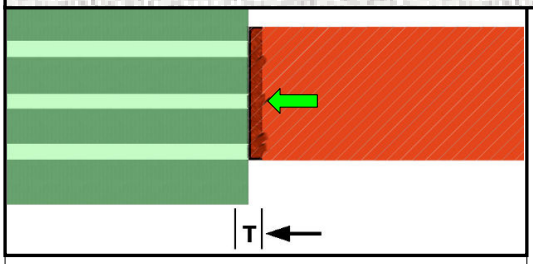
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
RIGID / FLEX REGISTRATION

The flex laminate is aligned and registered to the printed laminate within engineering specification.

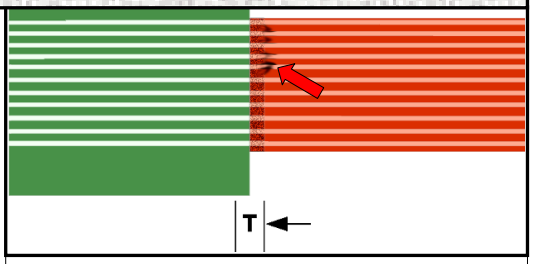
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
TRANSITION ZONE IMPERFECTIONS

Minor visual imperfections inherent to the fabrication process (i.e., adhesive squeeze-out, localized deformation of the dielectric and conductors) shall not be cause for rejection.

Best Workmanship Practice

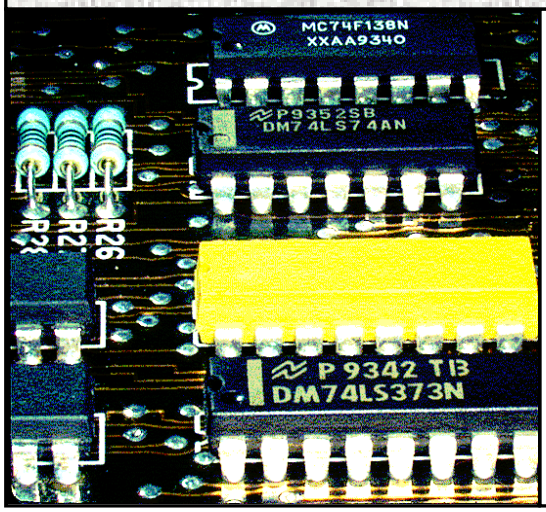


UNACCEPTABLE
TRANSITION ZONE IMPERFECTIONS
ADHESIVE/ PREPREG SQUEEZE OUT

The squeeze-out of adhesive / prepreg shall not extend beyond the transition zone and shall not interfere with the designed flexing of the flexible laminate.

Best Workmanship Practice

THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



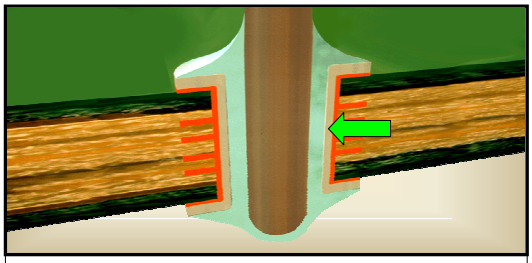
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Discrete components are the backbone of the electronics world, consisting of individually packaged, leaded devices, highly integrated circuits (IC), interconnects, terminators, switches, etc.

While discretes are rapidly being displaced by the smaller-form surface mount technology (SMT) package, the discrete component is still widely in use, especially in extreme environmental applications where the SMT device will not perform reliably and/or is unavailable.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

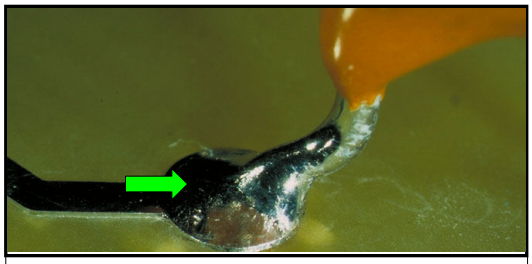
Components are installed per engineering documentation, and are parallel to, and in contact with, the board surface. Component and board markings are clear and legible. Component leads exhibit proper bend radii, and stress relief. Solder fillets are smooth and shiny, with concave profiles.



PREFERRED
100% SOLDER FILL (PTH)

Populated plated through holes (PTH) should exhibit a vertical solder fill of 100%, with a fully formed fillet on the solder side, and evidence of 100% wetting on the component side lead, barrel, and pad.

Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
PWB COMPONENT SIDE FILLET (PTH)

The solder joint surface is smooth, nonporous and undisturbed, with a finish varying from satin to bright. The fillet completely wets all elements to the periphery of the connection and is concave.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.f.2]

PREFERRED
SOLDER SIDE FILLETS (PTH / NPTH)

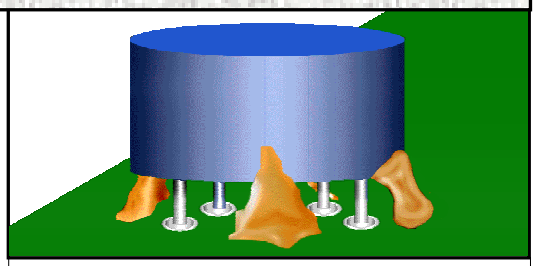
The solder joint surfaces are smooth, nonporous and undisturbed, with a finish varying from satin to bright. The fillet completely wets all elements of the connection and is concave.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.f.1]

PREFERRED
HEAT PRODUCING PARTS

Parts which dissipate heat in quantities of 1 Watt or greater, or in quantities sufficient to damage the laminate shall be mounted with sufficient standoff [≥ 1.5mm (0.060 in.)] and shall be mechanically restrained.

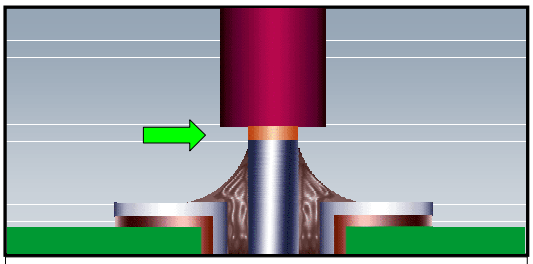
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
HIGH-MASS COMPONENTS

Components weighing in excess of 7g (0.25 oz.) total, or 3.5gm (0.12 oz.) per lead, shall be mechanically secured to the mounting surface by at least 4 evenly spaced bonds, when no other mechanical support is used.

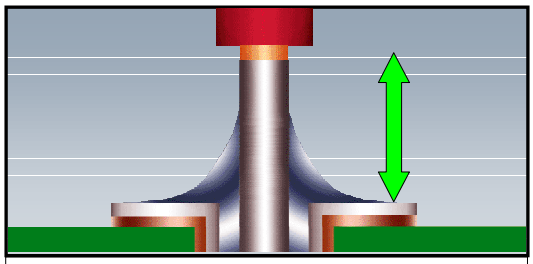
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
WIRE / LEAD INSULATION GAP
(MINIMUM)

The insulation shall not be imbedded in the solder joint. The contour of the conductor shall not be obscured at the termination end of the insulation.

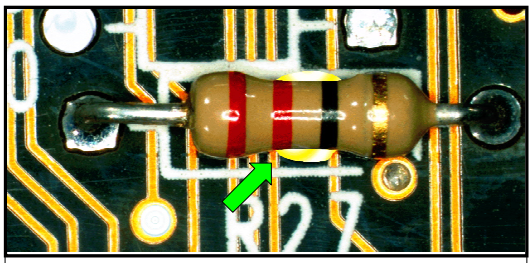
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1]



PREFERRED
WIRE / LEAD INSULATION GAP
(MAXIMUM)

The termination exhibits a gap of less than two (2) insulated wire diameters (<2d) between the end of the insulation and the first point of contact of the conductor to the termination / pad.

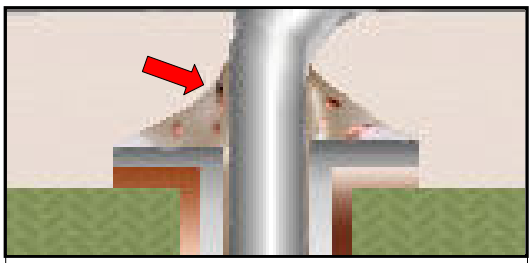
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.2]



ACCEPTABLE
ADHESIVES

Adhesives may be used to temporarily hold discrete components in position during wave or reflow soldering. Adhesives shall not interfere with soldering, and residues shall be removed following soldering operations.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ADHESIVE INCLUSION

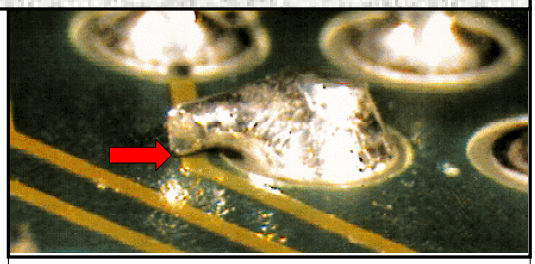
Adhesive material in the solder joint shall be cause for rejection.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.10]

ACCEPTABLE
CLINCHED LEAD TERMINATION

Conductor / lead ends may be clinched, with the clinched length at least ½ the largest solder pad dimension, bent in the direction of the longest pad dimension. Clinched leads shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

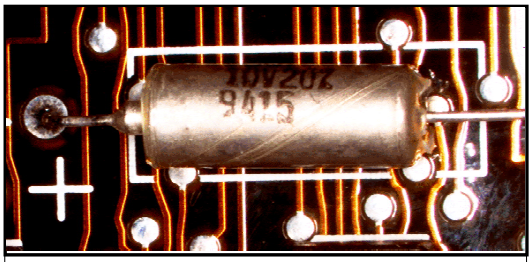
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPERLY CLINCHED LEAD

Component leads shall not be clinched toward an electrically uncommon conductor.

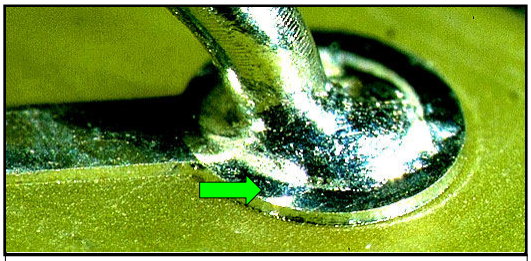
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.20]



ACCEPTABLE
CONDUCTIVE CASE PARTS

Parts having conductive cases, which are mounted over printed conductors or which are in close proximity to other conductive materials shall be separated by insulation of suitable thickness, or shall have an insulating jacket / sleeve.

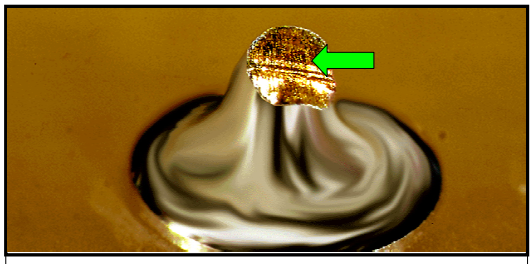
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.2.b]



ACCEPTABLE
DEWETTING

Slight solder dewetting around the periphery of the component side termination pad shall not be cause for rejection, provided the termination exhibits flow-through and bonding of the lead / conductor to the termination pad.

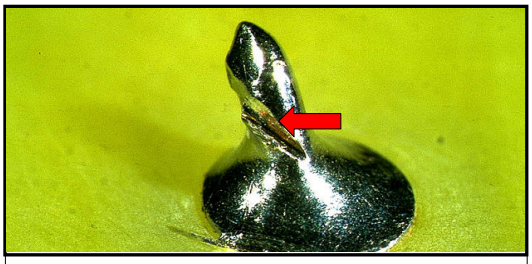
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.3.c]



ACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Exposed ends of leads on straight-through terminations shall not be cause for rejection if the PWA is to be conformally coated.

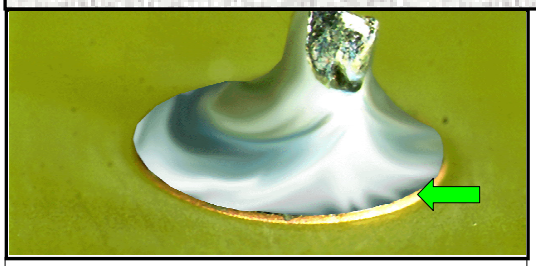
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.k]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Defects or damage (cuts, nicks, gouges, scrapes, etc.) that result in exposed base metal (except for the vertical edges of circuit traces, lands, and pads) shall be rejectable.

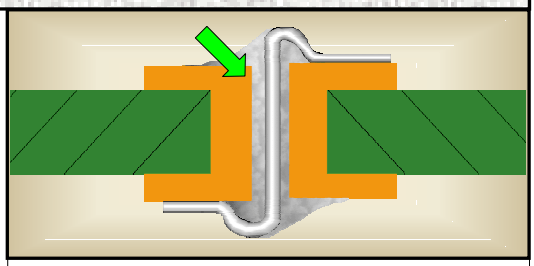
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.8], [13.6.2.c.5]



ACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL
(SPECIAL EXCEPTION)

Exposed base metal on the vertical edge of printed wiring conductors, lands, and pads is acceptable.

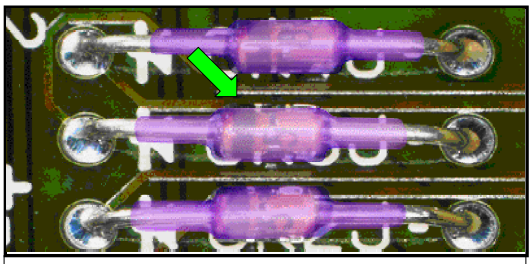
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.5]



ACCEPTABLE
FILLER WIRE USE

Interfacial connections in double-sided PWBs require the use of filler wire if the PWB coupon is not evaluated by construction analysis.

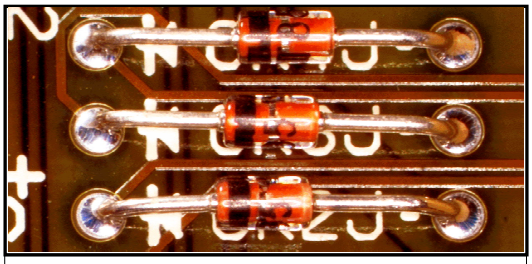
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.24]



ACCEPTABLE
GLASS ENCASED PARTS

Glass encased parts shall be covered with transparent / translucent resilient sleeving (or other approved material) when epoxy is used for staking, conformal coating, encapsulating, or where damage from other sources is likely.

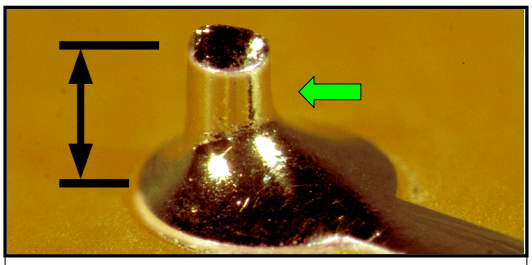
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
UNSLEEVED GLASS ENCASED PARTS

Glass encased parts shall be covered with transparent / translucent resilient sleeving (or other approved material) when epoxy is used for staking, conformal coating, encapsulating, or where damage from other sources is likely.

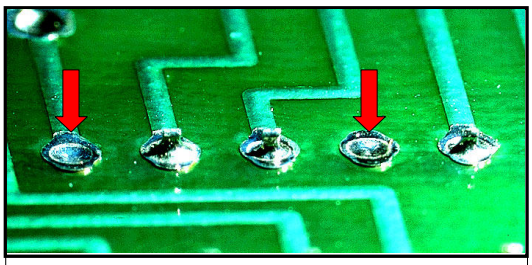
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.4], [13.6.2.a.12]



ACCEPTABLE
LEAD PROTRUSION LENGTH

Leads terminated straight through the PWB shall extend 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) to 2.29mm (0.090 in.) beyond the pad surface. Leads may be bent up to 30° from the vertical plane to retain the part during soldering.

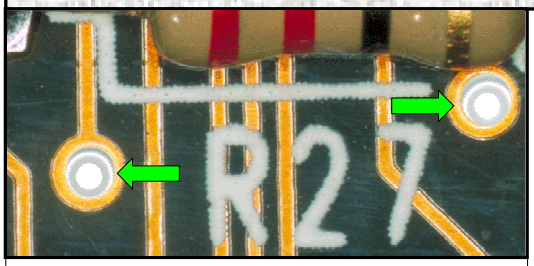
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT LEAD PROTRUSION

Leads terminated straight through the PWB shall extend a minimum of 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) beyond the pad surface.

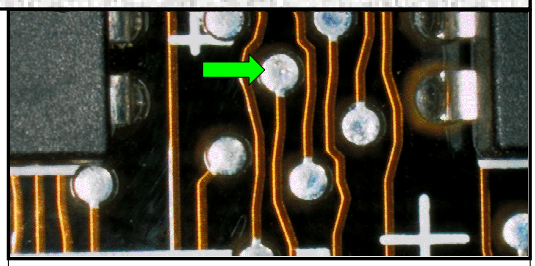
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.21]



ACCEPTABLE
INTERFACIAL CONNECTIONS / VIAS
(MULTILAYER PWBs)

Interfacial connections (vias) in multilayer PWBs do not require the use of filler wire, and shall not be solder filled.

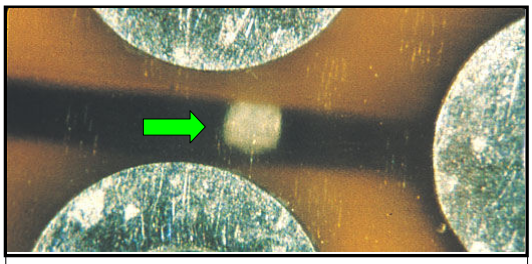
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.4.b]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER-FILLED INTERFACIAL
CONNECTIONS (PTH / VIAS)

No dedicated effort shall be expended to remove solder from unpopulated plated through holes (PTH) and/or vias.

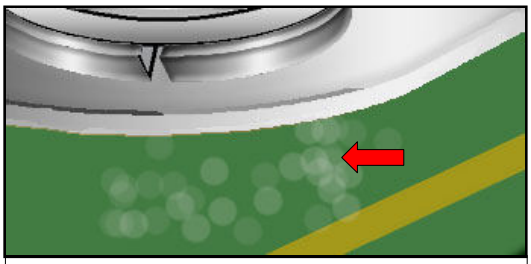
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.4]



ACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Whitish, discrete spots or crosses below the laminate surface - usually induced by thermal shock / stress. Measling that bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

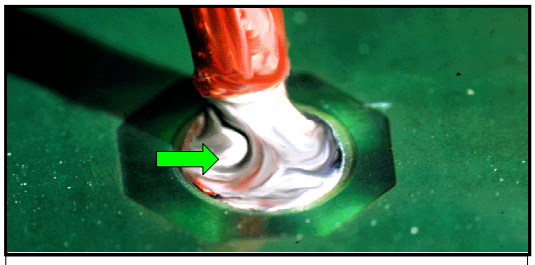
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.l], [13.6.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Measling that bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

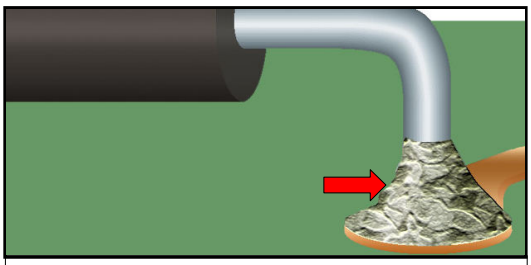
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE
NON-UNIFORM / UNEVEN FLOW
(DEMARCATION LINES / FILLET SWIRLS)

A solder fillet exhibiting a nonuniform / uneven profile, demarcation lines, or swirls is acceptable, provided the fillet is shiny and there is evidence of complete wetting with smooth fillets at the swirls.

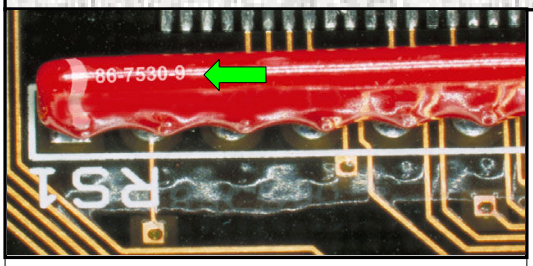
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNEVEN FLOW / REFLOW

A solder fillet exhibiting nonuniform / uneven flow lines / swirls with hard demarcation lines (no fillet at swirl interfaces), and a dull finish are typically caused by an inadequate / uneven application of heat during the fillet formation.

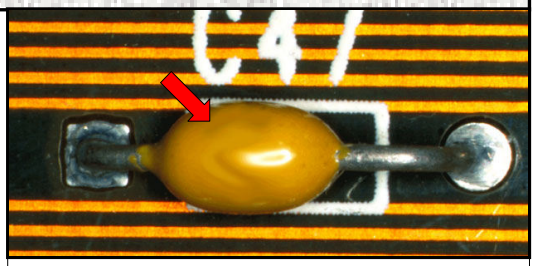
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PART MARKINGS

Parts shall be mounted in such a manner that, at a minimum, the markings are visible in the following order of precedence: polarity, traceability / lot code (if applicable), part value, part number / type.

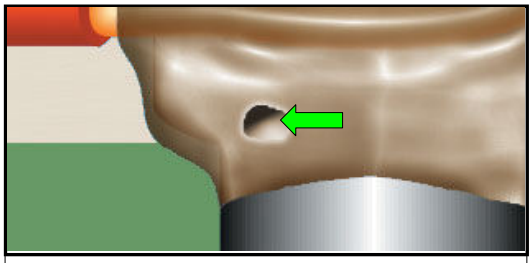
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IDENTIFICATION MARKS MISSING

The component (capacitor C47) has been mounted with the identification marks on the underside of the component body (against the circuit board), preventing visual confirmation that the correct value part is installed.

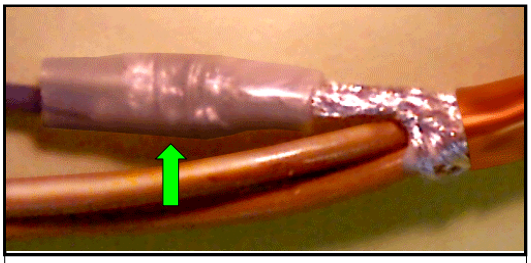
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.3]



ACCEPTABLE
PITS

A solder pit is acceptable, provided the bottom of the cavity can be seen from all angles of vision.

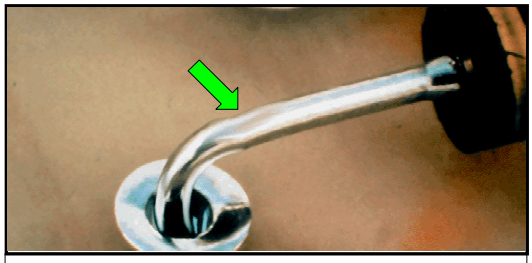
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SHRINK TUBING
(TRANSLUCENT / TRANSPARENT)

Shrink tubing installed over components and/or soldered terminations shall be transparent (or translucent) to allow visual inspection.

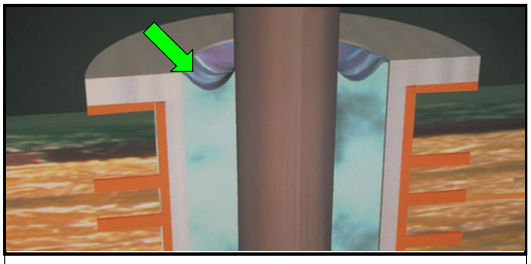
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.4]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH TOOL IMPRESSION MARKS

Smooth tool impression marks (slight cuts, nicks, scratches or scrapes) on the conductor surface, which do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area are acceptable.

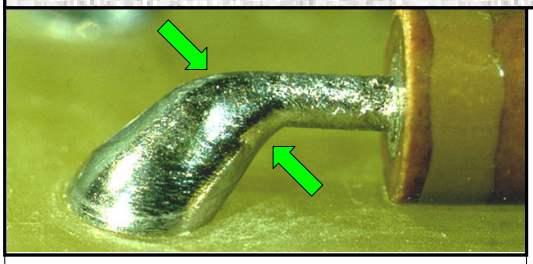
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.d]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER FILLET RECESS / SHRINKBACK

A slight recessing or shrinkback of the solder into the PTH below the solder pad is acceptable, providing the lead and pad exhibit wetting and the shrinkback is slight.

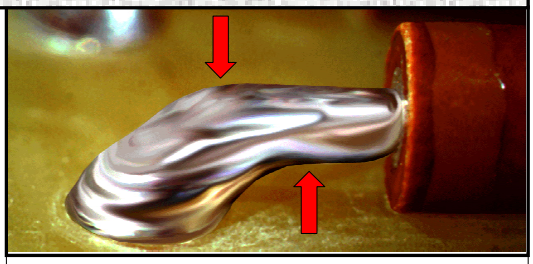
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.f.2]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER IN STRESS RELIEF BEND

Solder which extends into the stress relief bend of any leaded part shall not be cause for rejection if the topside bend radius is discernable, and if the solder does not extend within one (1) lead diameter of the part body or end seal.

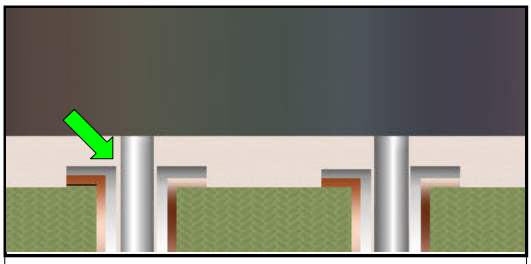
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER IN STRESS RELIEF BEND

Solder extends into the stress relief bend and contacts the part body end seal. The topside of the lead is not discernable.

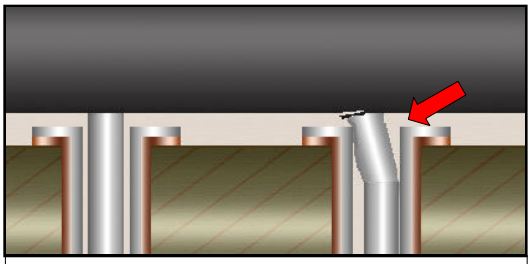
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.6]



ACCEPTABLE
TEMPERED LEADS

Tempered / hardened leads (sometimes referred to as pins) shall not be bent or formed for mounting purposes since body seals and connections internal to the part may be damaged.

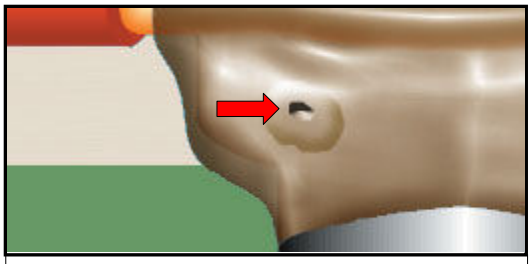
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
BENT TEMPERED LEADS

Tempered / hardened leads (sometimes referred to as pins) shall not be bent or formed.

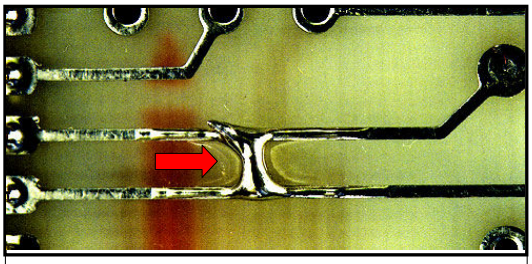
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
BLOWHOLE

Blowholes are typically caused by trapped gases or flux during the formation of the solder fillet, and are unacceptable.

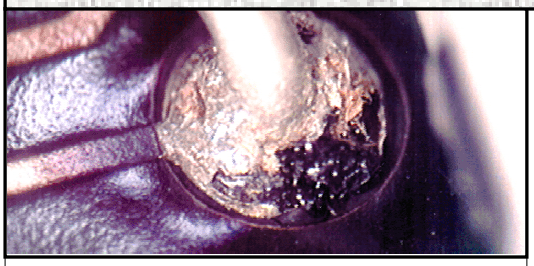
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Bridging is an indicator of poor process controls (i.e.: excess solder, smeared paste, improper placement, incorrect heat).

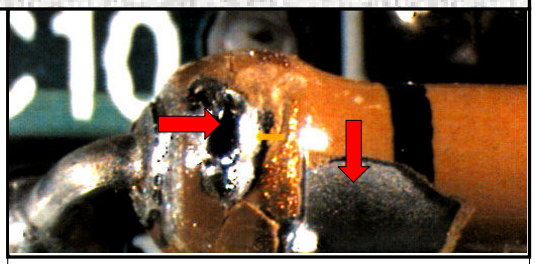
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHARRING

Charring of components and/or laminate is an indicator of poor process control (i.e.: excessive heat).

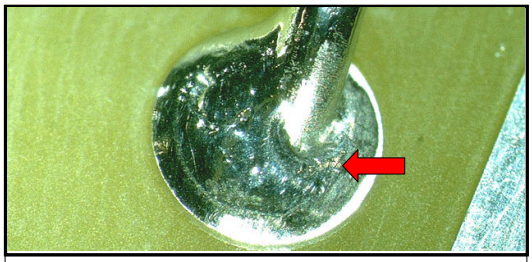
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHIP-OUTS (NICKS)

The use of parts with chips in the component body, termination area, or meniscus, is prohibited.

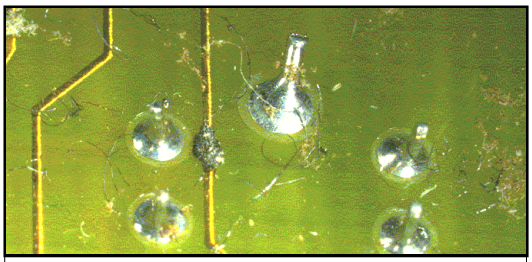
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
COLD SOLDER JOINT

A cold solder joint is an indicator of incorrect process control (i.e.: inadequate heat).

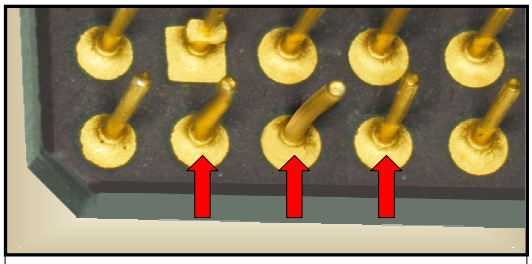
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination is a reliability concern.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

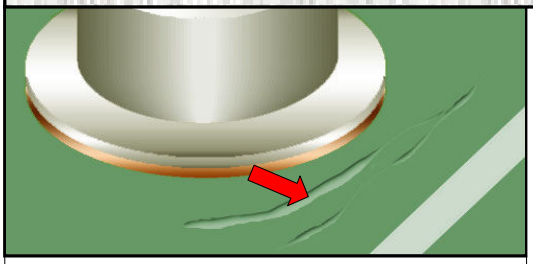
Improper coplanarity of leaded parts will result in bridging, shorts, opens, and/or misalignment. Part leads shall be reworked (if allowed) prior to installation.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]

UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (COMPONENT)

Cracks (especially in ceramic components) are an indicator of poor process control (i.e.: improper preheat, thermal / mechanical shock, etc.).

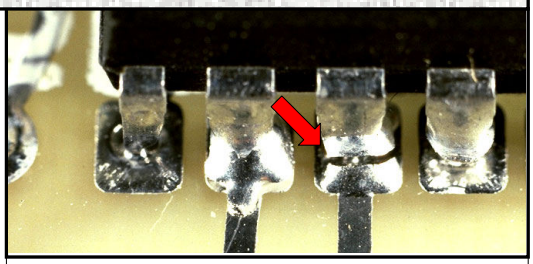
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (LAMINATE)

Cracks in the laminate are cause for rejection.

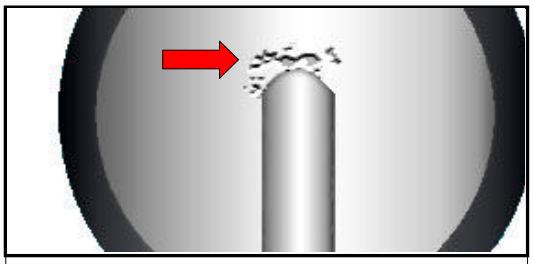
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (SOLDER FILLET)

Cracks or fractures in the solder fillet are an indication of mechanical / thermal shock, or temperature coefficient mismatch.

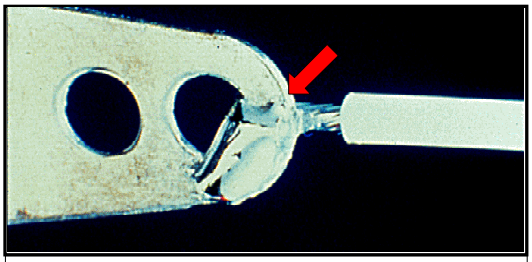
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED PART SEAL

Parts with damaged seals shall not be used.

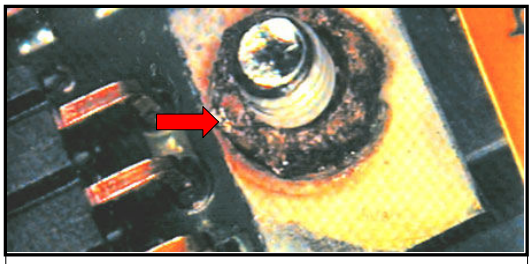
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
DEWETTING

Dewetting is caused when molten solder coats a surface and then recedes, leaving irregularly-shaped solder deposits separated by areas covered by a thin solder film.

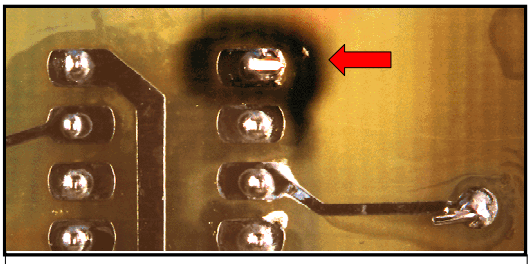
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.11]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORED LAMINATE (BURNS)

Burns that physically damage the laminate surface or the assembly are not allowed. Slight discoloration is allowable.

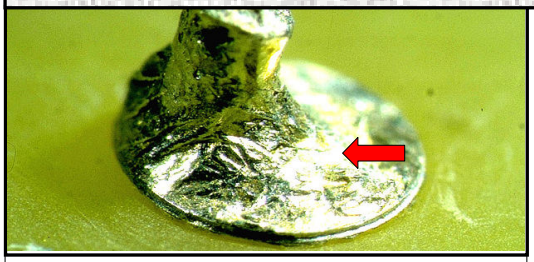
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORED LAMINATE (OVERHEATING)

A browning / darkening of the laminate because of excess heat; an indicator of improper process control / thermal design.

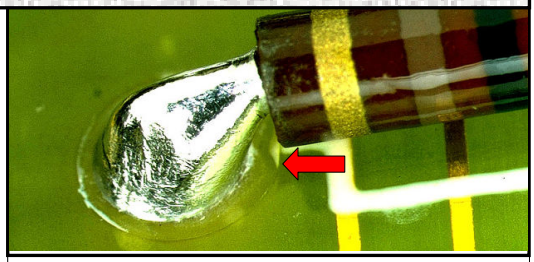
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISTURBED SOLDER

A disturbed solder joint is characterized by the appearance that there was motion between the metals being joined while the molten solder was solidifying.

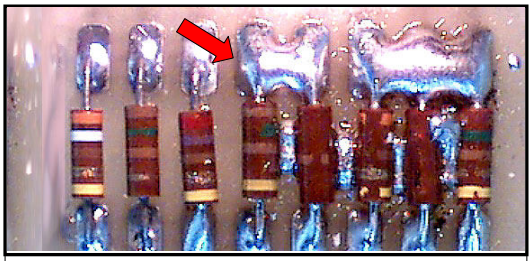
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle and shall not contact the component body.

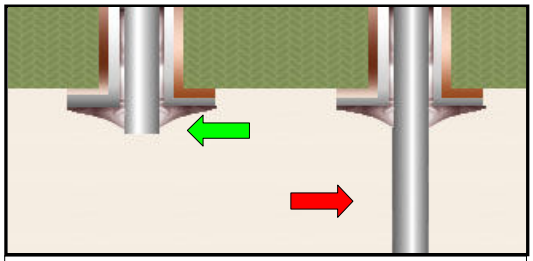
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER / SOLDER FLOODING

Excess solder / Solder flooding / is an indicator of improper / incorrect process controls, and is typically seen in wave soldering.

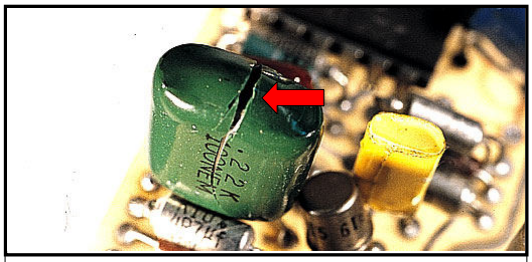
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE LEAD PROTRUSION

Leads terminated straight through the PWB shall extend a maximum of 2.29 mm (0.090 in.) beyond the pad surface. Leads may not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

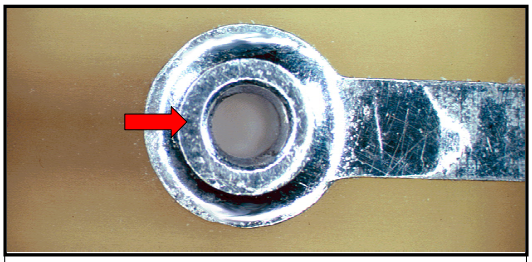
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED DIE / CIRCUIT ELEMENTS

The unprotected exposure of die or circuit elements is not allowed unless specified in the engineering documentation.

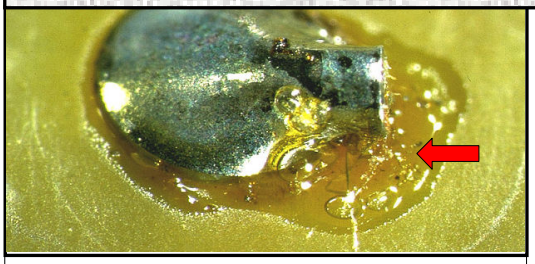
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
EYELETS

Eyelets shall not be used for interfacial terminations.

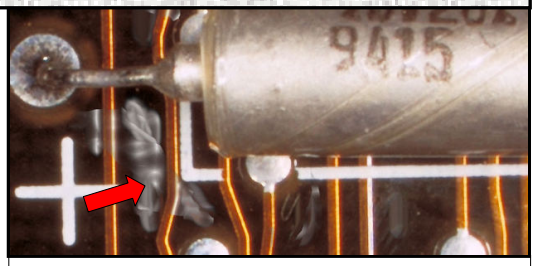
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FLUX RESIDUE

Flux residue indicates improper / incomplete cleaning.

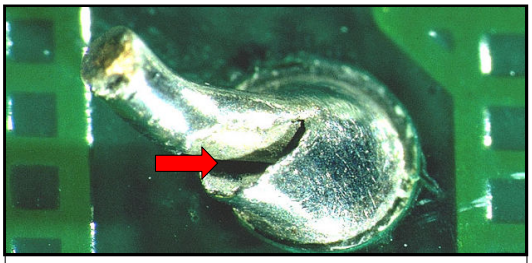
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
FLUX SPLATTER

Flux splatter is an indication of an improper process parameter (heat / moisture).

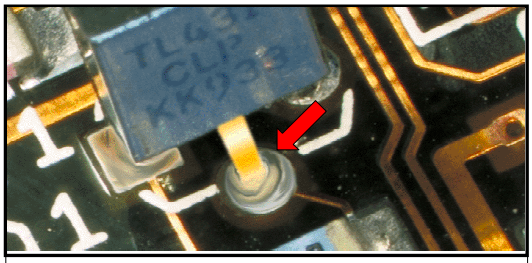
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
FRACTURED SOLDER

A fractured solder joint is an indication that the joint has been subjected to extreme mechanical shock. A crack in an "as-received" assembly is unusual and cause for concern.

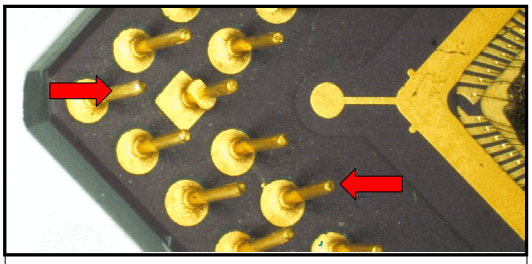
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
GOLD INTERMETALLIC

Gold intermetallic is characterized by evidence of golden colored streaks in the solder fillets of gold plated leads that have not been properly tinned. Gold intermetallic can severely embrittle a solder joint.

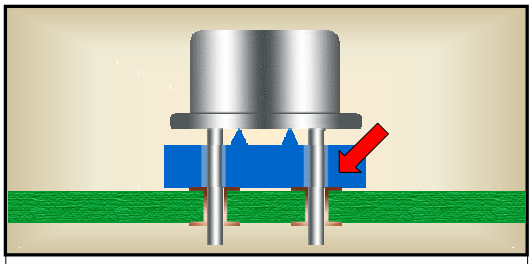
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
GOLD PLATING

Gold plated surfaces that will become a part of the finished solder connection shall be tinned prior to soldering to remove the gold plating.

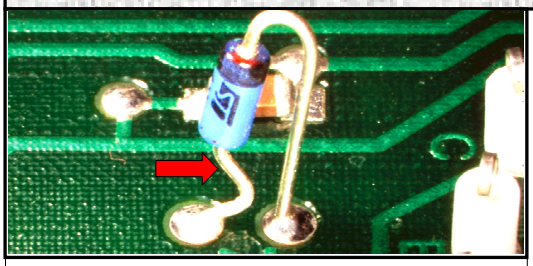
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5.c], [13.6.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
HOLE OBSTRUCTION

The mounting pad has been installed upside down. Parts shall not be mounted such that they obstruct solder flow to the component-side termination area (pad), or prevent cleaning and inspection.

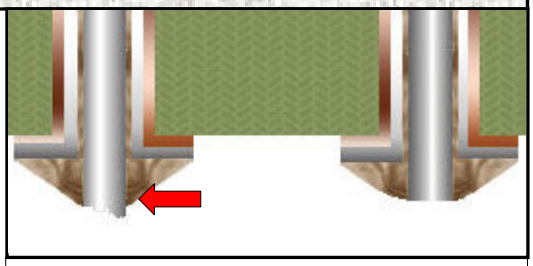
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD BENDING

The minimum distance from the part body / seal to the start of the bend shall be 2 lead diameters for round leads and 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) for ribbon leads. The bend radius shall not be less than one lead diameter (1d) or ribbon thickness (1 t).

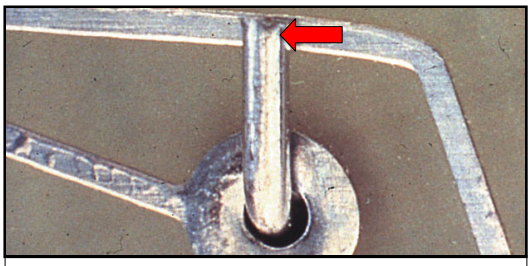
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD CUTTING

Leads shall be cut per engineering documentation and by methods, which do not impart stress to the lead seal or internal terminations.

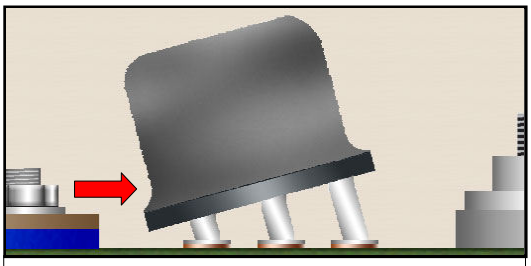
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD LENGTH

The clinched lead extends beyond the pad edge in excess of allowed limits and is bent over an uncommon electrical conductor.

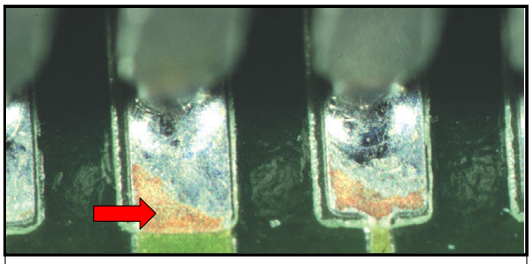
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.20]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION

Parts shall be mounted parallel to the laminate surface, right side up, and aligned to the lands within design and engineering specifications.

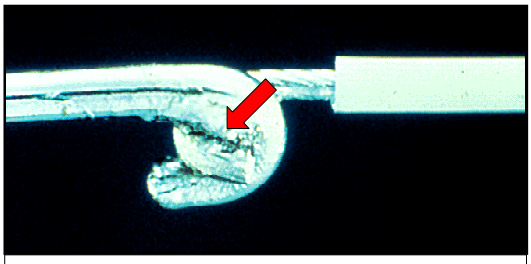
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TINNING

Tinned surfaces, which are to become part of the solder termination, shall exhibit 100% coverage.

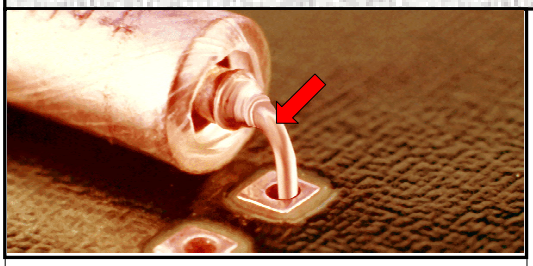
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.6], [13.6.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

Insufficient solder is an indicator of improper process control, and may result in reduced reliability.

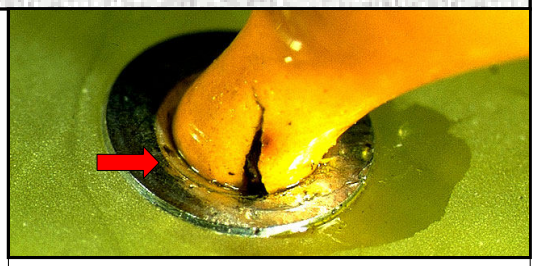
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT STRESS RELIEF / LEAD BEND

Lead is improperly bent, placing strain on the weld bead. Conductors and part leads shall have sufficient stress relief to prevent damage to the solder termination and/or part.

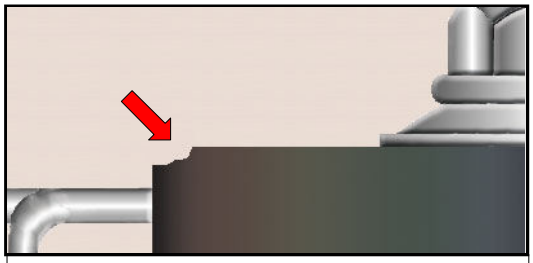
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
MENISCUS CONTACT

Parts exhibiting contact with, or embedment of, the meniscus and the solder joint, shall be rejected.

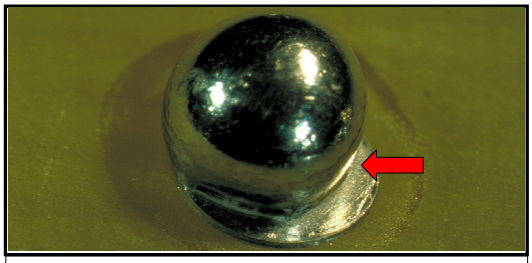
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.7], [13.6.2.b.13]



UNACCEPTABLE
NICKS

The use of parts with nicks in the component body or termination area is prohibited.

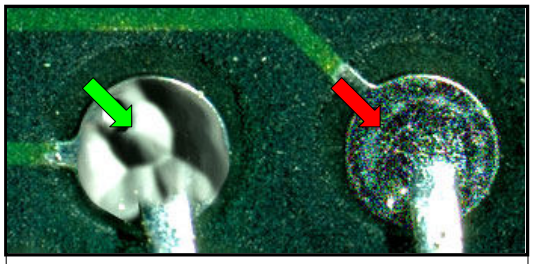
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING

Nonwetting results in the solder forming a ball or beading on the termination surface. The fillet is convex; no feathered edge is apparent.

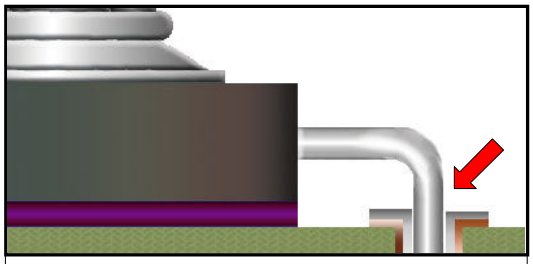
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.12]



UNACCEPTABLE
NO FLOW / REFLOW

The lack of flow / reflow of solder is an indicator of poor process control or layout design (i.e.: inadequate heat, shadowing).

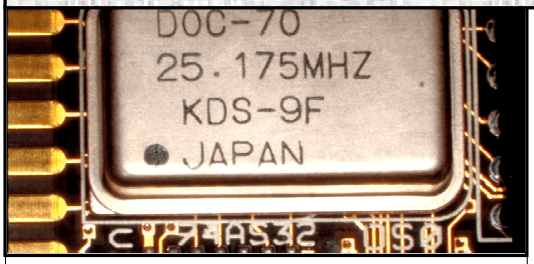
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
NO SOLDER

The lack of solder is an indicator of poor process control.

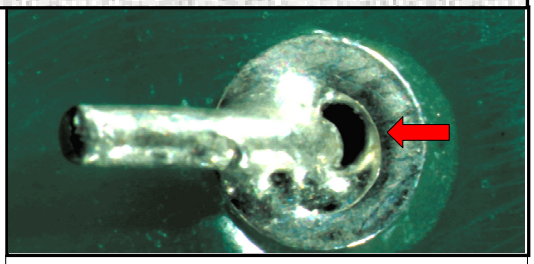
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
OBSCURED SOLDER TERMINATIONS

The placement of a part, which obscures the inspectability of another part's terminations, is unacceptable, unless interim inspection is performed (part depicted is mounted over previously installed surface mount components).

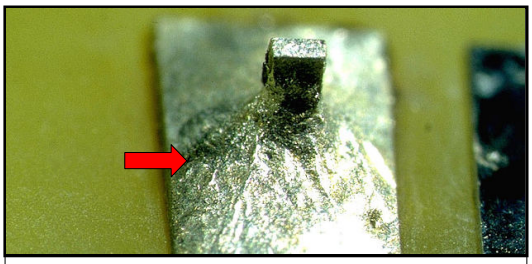
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.23]



UNACCEPTABLE
OPENS / VOIDS

Cavities (opens / voids) reduce the circumferential wetting of lead and barrel, land coverage, and vertical solder fill below minimum acceptable requirements.

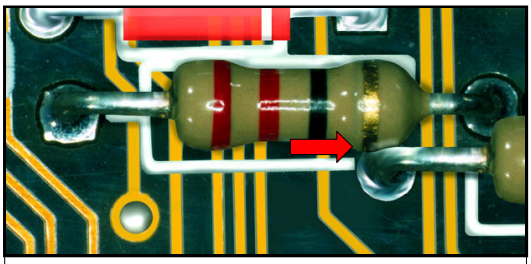
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERHEATED SOLDER

Overheated solder has a dull, gray, frosty, and/or crystallized appearance and is the result of excessive exposure to heat.

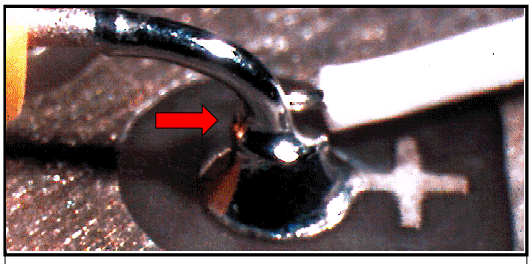
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
PART BODY CONTACT

Part bodies shall not be in contact with soldered terminations. The spacing between components is below recommended values, resulting in contact between the resistor body and the lead, which may eventually result in a short circuit.

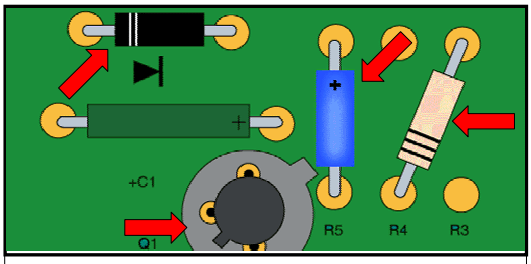
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.7], [13.6.2.b.13]



UNACCEPTABLE
PART LEADS USED AS TERMINALS

Part leads shall not be used as terminals, unless the part lead is designed to function as a terminal.

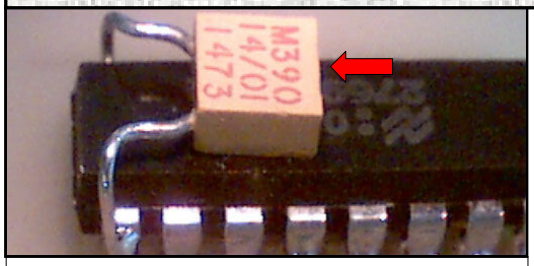
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.18]



UNACCEPTABLE
PART MISALIGNMENT

Part misalignment is an indicator of improper process control.

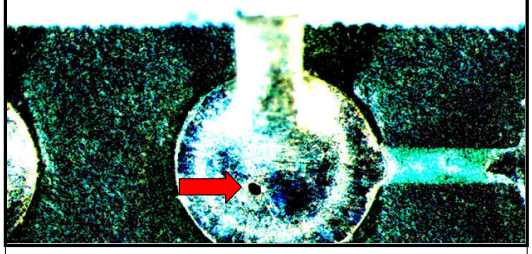
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
PIGGYBACKED PARTS

The piggybacking of parts not designed specifically for that configuration is prohibited.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PINHOLE

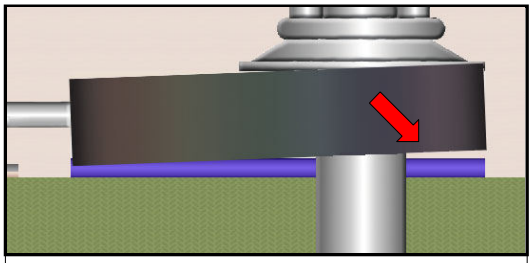
Pinholes are typically small holes in the solder surface, leading to a void of indeterminate size within the solder termination.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.5]

UNACCEPTABLE
POOR WETTING

Poor wetting is an indicator of poor solderability, improper flux, or contamination.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
POPCORNING

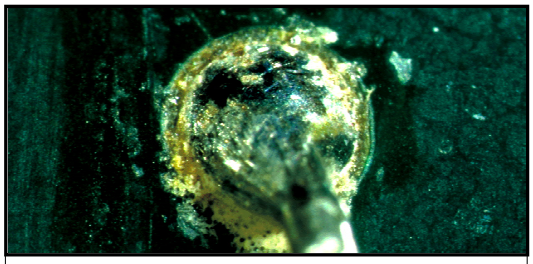
Popcorning is caused by the release of entrapped moisture during the soldering process.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
POROUS SOLDER

Porous solder exhibits an uneven surface and a spongy appearance that may contain a concentration of small pinholes and voids.

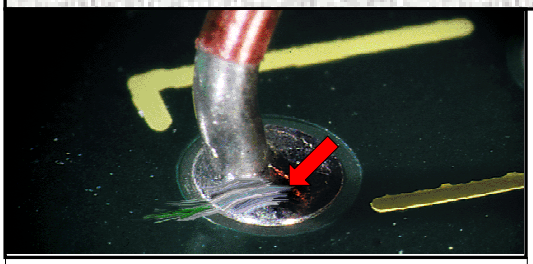
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ROSIN SOLDER JOINT

A rosin solder joint is similar in appearance to a cold solder joint, but exhibits evidence of entrapped flux in the fillet and at the surfaces to be joined.

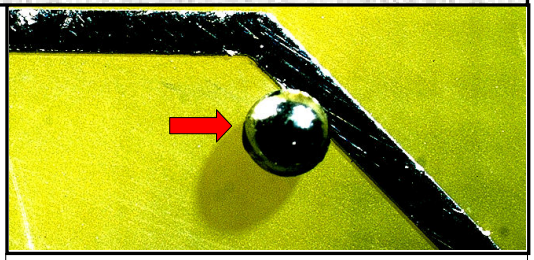
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
SCRATCHES (SOLDER FILLET)

Scratches in the solder are prohibited.

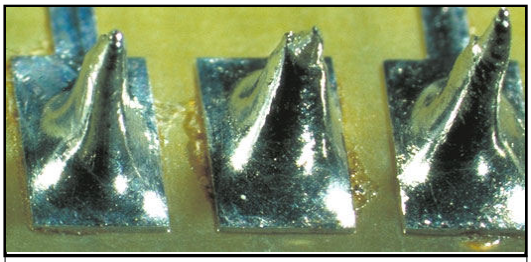
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER BALLS

Solder balls are considered a contaminant, and are an indication of improper process control (inadequate preheat), and/or the use of outdated solder/flux.

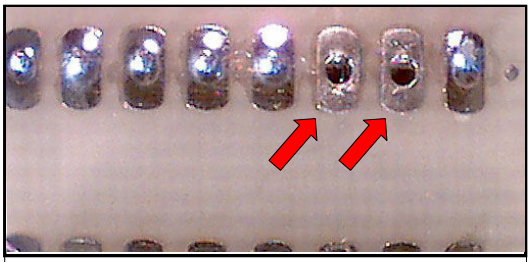
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER PEAKS, ICICLES, SHARP EDGES

Solder peaks, icicles, and/or sharp edges are an indicator of an improper process parameter and are a reliability and short-circuit concern.

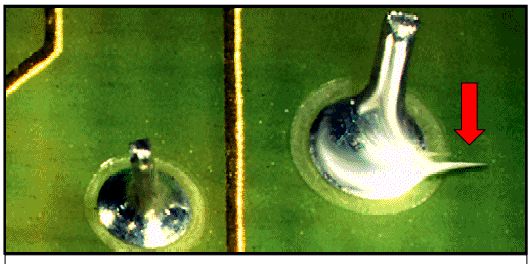
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SKIPS

Solder skip is the random non-formation of solder fillets, and is an indicator of poor process control. Solder skip may be caused by insufficient solder, contamination, non-solderability (oxide), improper flux, solder thieving, etc.

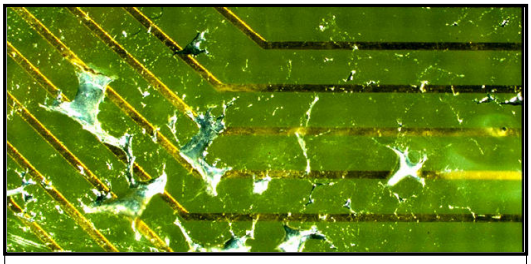
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLIVERS

Solder slivers are an indication of improper process control.

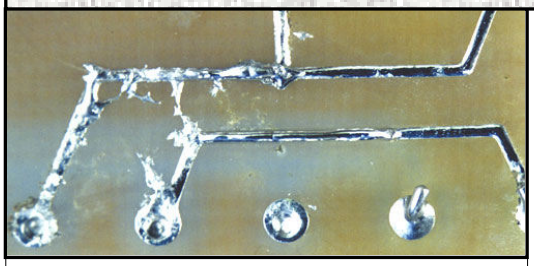
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SPLATTER

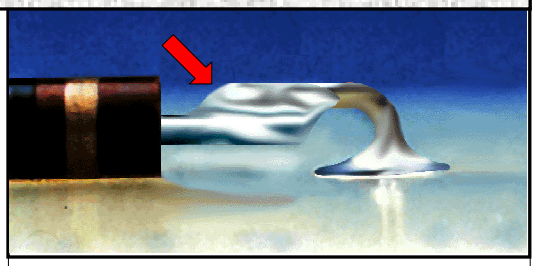
Solder splatter is typically caused by moisture contamination and is an indicator of poor process control.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.8]



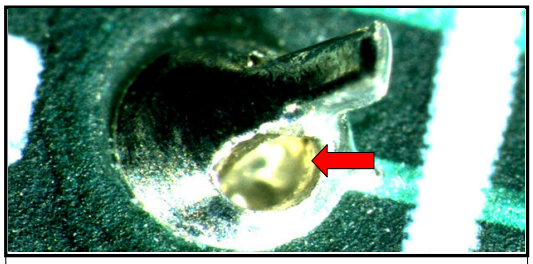
UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER WEBBING

Webbing is an indication of improper process control.
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.c.4]



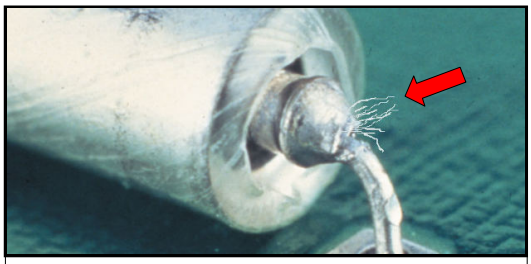
UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICED CONDUCTORS / LEADS

Splices shall not be used to repair broken or damaged conductors or part leads.
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.8], [13.6.2.a.16]



UNACCEPTABLE
VOIDS

Voids are an indication of improper process control, and are typically caused by insufficient solder, solder wicking / thieving, or contamination.
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
WHISKER

A whisker is a slender needle-shaped metallic growth between a conductor and a land. Typically the result of mechanical stresses in high tin compounds, it is a reliability concern.
Best Workmanship Practice

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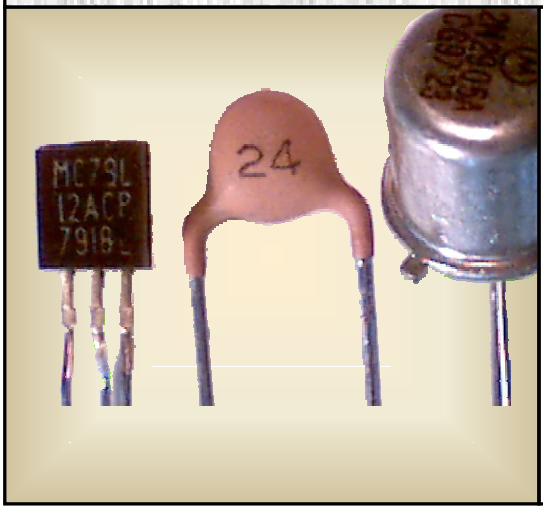
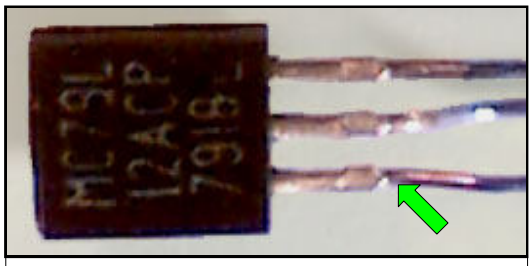


PREPARATION OF CONDUCTORS

The quality of solder terminations can be correlated to the preparation of the conductors prior to soldering.

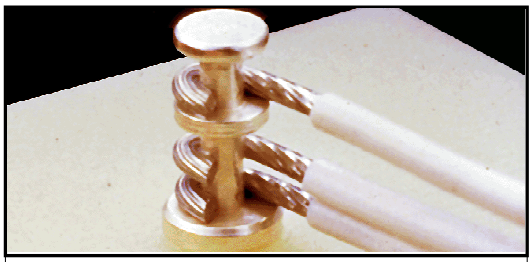
Solderability can be significantly improved by the pre-tinning and thorough cleaning of all surfaces designated to be part of the completed solder termination. Pre-forming of component leads and other conductors reduces stresses in the solder joint and component body.

See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



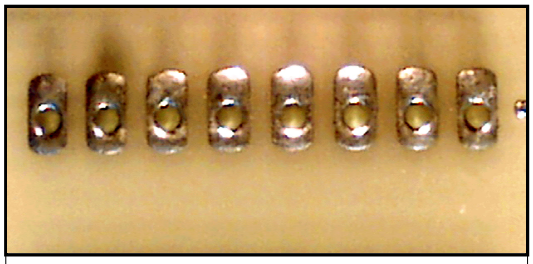
PREFERRED
COMPONENT LEADS

The component’s leads have been tinned, formed, and cleaned per engineering requirements. Gold plating has been removed. The spacing and radius of bends are within requirements. There is no mechanical damage to the component leads or body.



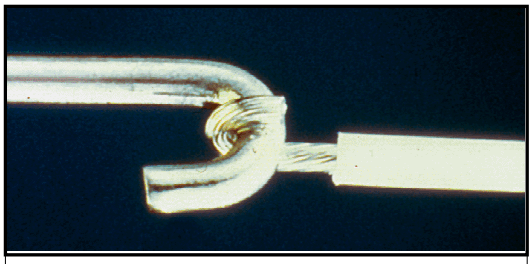
PREFERRED
CONDUCTORS / WIRE

The conductors have been stripped, tinned, formed, and cleaned per engineering requirements. There is no mechanical damage to the conductor or insulation, no reduced cross-section, and individual strands are discernable.



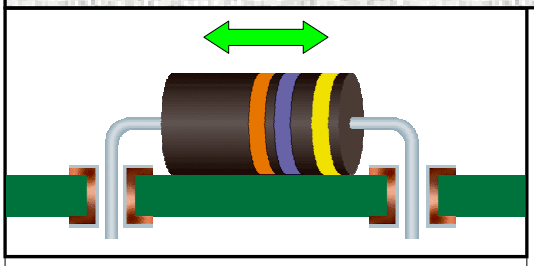
PREFERRED
TERMINATION AREAS / PWB

Termination areas have been tinned with hot-coated tin-lead solder or hot reflowed electro-deposited tin-lead solder prior to mounting of the parts. Gold plating has been removed.



PREFERRED
TERMINATIONS / MISCELLANEOUS

The terminations have been properly tinned, formed, and cleaned in preparation for solder termination. The preparation of simple terminations, such as the hook and conductor termination shown, is just as important as more complex terminations.



ACCEPTABLE
COMPONENT CENTERING

The component leads shall be bent such that the distance from the bend to the end seal shall be approximately equal at each end of the part, resulting in the centering of the part between the mounting holes.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a]

UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER CENTERING

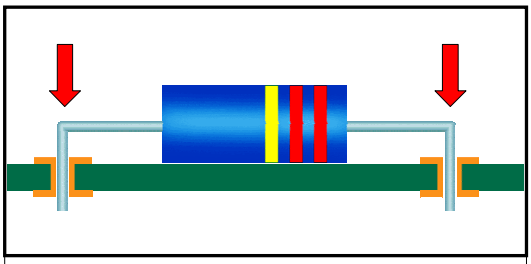
The component leads shall be bent such that the distance from the bend to the end seal shall be approximately equal at each end of the part, resulting in the centering of the part between the mounting holes.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a], [13.6.2.a.5]

ACCEPTABLE
LEAD FORMING - BEND RADIUS

The radius of bends in the conductor shall not be less than the lead diameter or lead thickness.

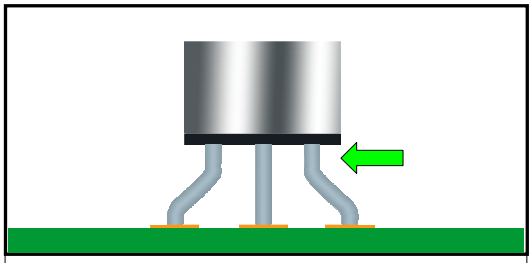
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER BEND RADIUS

The radius of bends in the conductor shall not be less than the lead diameter or lead thickness.

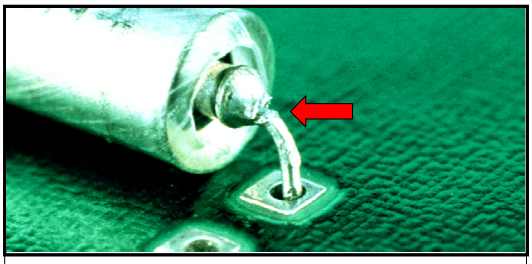
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a], [13.6.2.a.10]



ACCEPTABLE
LEAD FORMING - BEND SPACING

The minimum distance from the part body or seal to the start of the bend in a part lead shall be a minimum of 2 lead diameters for round leads, and 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) for ribbon leads.

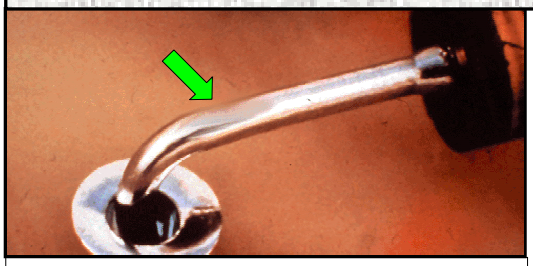
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD / BEND SPACING

The minimum distance from the part body, seal, or weld bead to the start of the bend in a part lead shall be a minimum of 2 lead diameters for round leads, and 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) for ribbon leads.

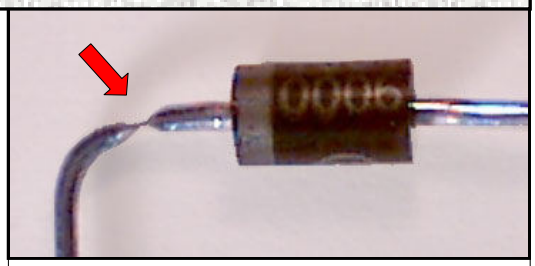
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.a], [13.6.2.a.15]



ACCEPTABLE
LEAD FORMING - SMOOTH TOOL MARKS

Smooth tool impression marks resulting from tool holding forces are acceptable, provided they do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area.

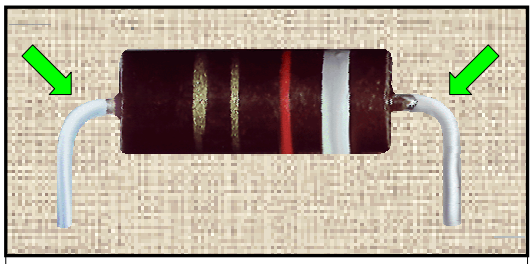
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3], [8.1.6.d]



UNACCEPTABLE
REDUCED CROSS-SECTIONAL AREA

Part leads and other conductors that have deformation / damage resulting in a reduced cross-sectional area shall not be used.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3], [8.1.6.d]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.3]



ACCEPTABLE
PREFORMING / SIZING

Part leads shall be formed so that they may be installed into the holes in the PWB without excessive deformation that can stress the part body or end seals. All leads should be tinned and formed prior to mounting.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.b], [8.1.6.c]

UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER PREFORMING / SIZING

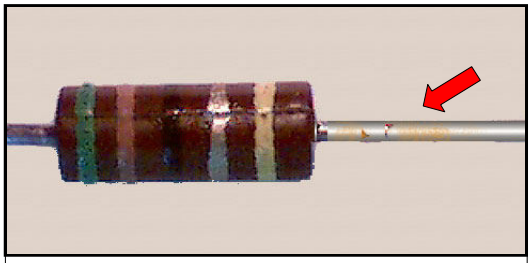
Part leads shall be formed so that they may be installed into the holes in the PWB without excessive deformation that can stress the part body or end seals.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.6.b], [8.1.6.c]

ACCEPTABLE
TINNING – COVERAGE

The portion of stranded or solid conductors, or part leads shall be solder tinned and cleaned prior to attachment. The solder shall completely wet the conductor and exhibit 100% coverage.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5], [7.2.6]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TINNING (COVERAGE)

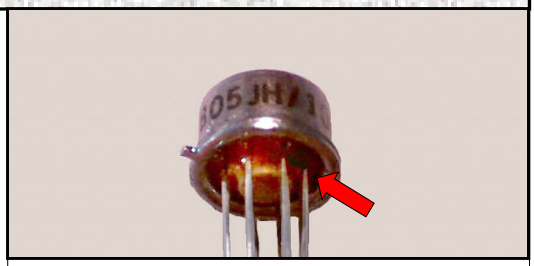
The solder shall completely wet the conductor and shall exhibit 100% coverage.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5], [7.2.6], [13.6.2.a.3]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.5]

ACCEPTABLE
TINNING – DIMENSIONS

Hot tinning of solid conductors and part leads shall not extend closer than 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) to part bodies, end seals, or insulation, unless the part configuration and mounting configuration dictate.

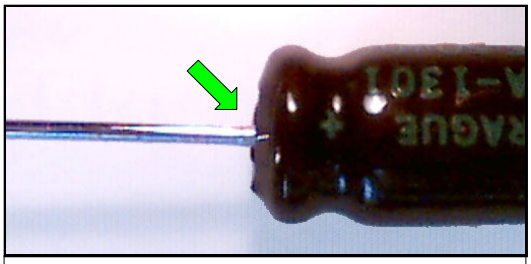
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TINNING (SPACING)

The tinning has extended closer than 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) to the part body / lead seals, and may have compromised the hermetic seal.

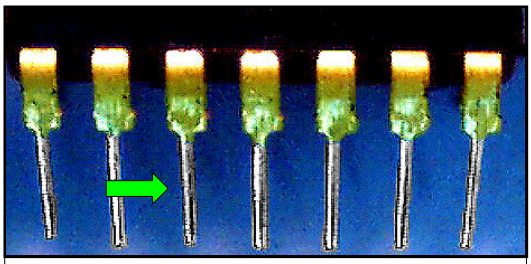
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5.a], [13.6.2.a.3]



ACCEPTABLE
TINNING – DIMENSIONS
(SPECIAL EXEMPTION)

In instances where conductor tinning is required to be closer than 0.5 mm (0.020 in), the part body, end seals, or insulation shall be inspected for damage and results recorded.

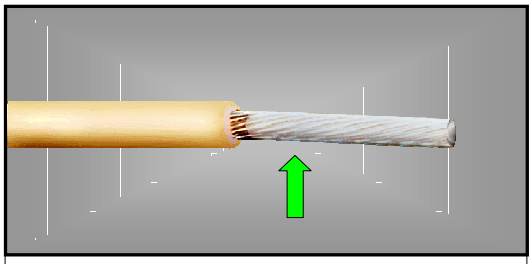
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5.a]



ACCEPTABLE
TINNING - GOLD REMOVAL

Gold plating on all surfaces that become part of finished solder connections shall be removed by two successive tinning operations, or by other approved processes.

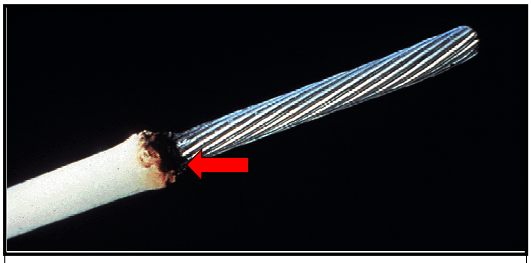
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5.c]



ACCEPTABLE
TINNING - STRANDED WIRE

The solder shall completely wet the conductor, penetrate to the inner strands, and exhibit 100% coverage. Wire strands shall be distinguishable. Wicking of flux or solder shall be minimized.

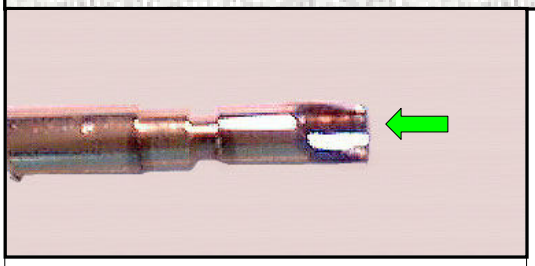
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5], [7.2.6]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED INSULATION

After stripping and tinning, the conductor insulation shall not exhibit any damage, such as nicks, cuts, or charring. Conductors with damaged insulation shall not be used.

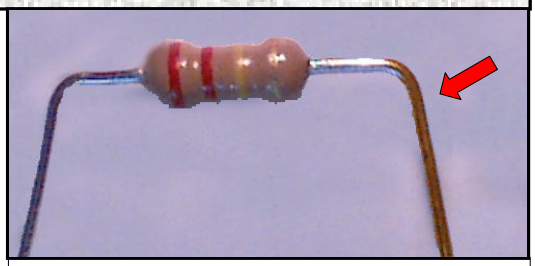
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
TINNING - TERMINALS / SOLDER CUPS

Terminals and solder cups shall be solder tinned, examined for damage, and cleaned prior to the attachment of conductors.

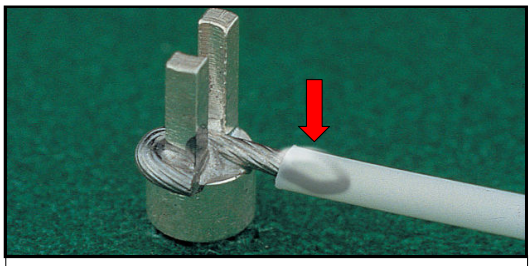
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5], [7.3.1], [7.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED CONDUCTOR – GENERAL

After removal of the conductor insulation and/or lead forming, the conductor shall not be nicked, cut, or scraped to the point that base metal is exposed.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.8]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [19.6.2.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE WICKING

The use of flux and the solder-tinning operation shall be controlled to limit wicking under the insulation.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.5]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.5]

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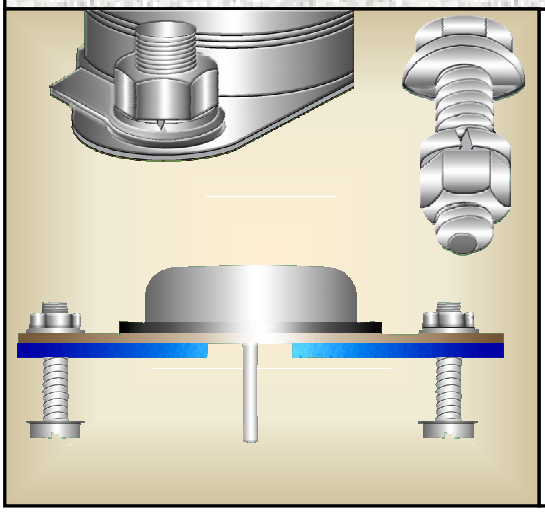
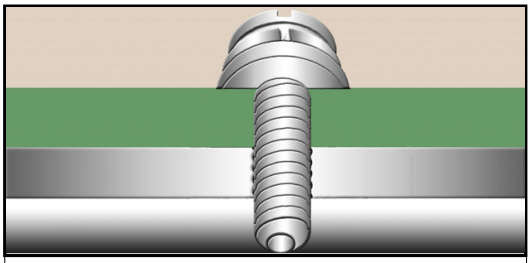


MECHANICAL ASSEMBLY – HARDWARE

Mechanical assembly hardware refers to the mounting of electrical and electronic components to a printed wiring board (PWB), or any other types of assemblies requiring the use of screws, bolts, nuts, fasteners, clips, component studs, adhesives, tie downs, rivets, connector pins, etc.

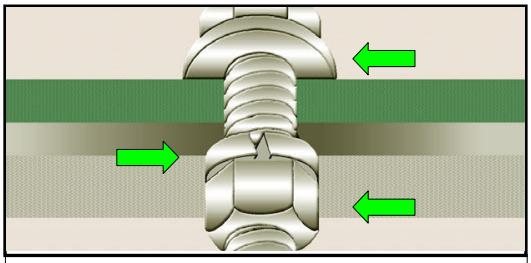
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
BLIND FASTENER SEQUENCE

Fasteners shall be assembled and installed in the sequence depicted, or per engineering documentation.
Note: Self-tapping fasteners shall not be used for flight hardware.

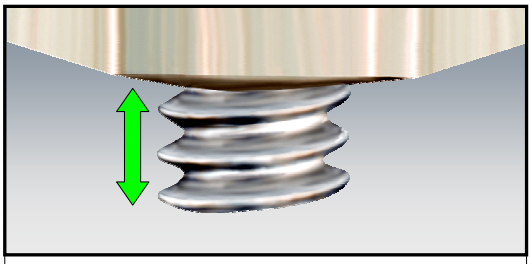
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
FASTENER SEQUENCE

Fasteners shall be assembled and installed in the sequence depicted, or per engineering documentation.

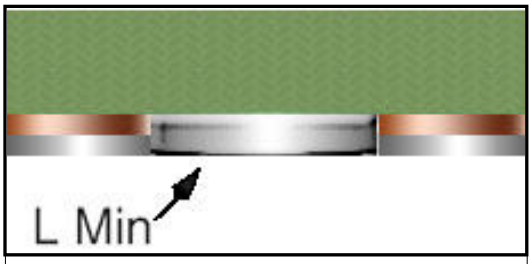
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
THREAD PROTRUSION (L)

A minimum of 1-1/2 threads shall extend beyond the threaded hardware (e.g., nut), unless otherwise specified by the engineering documentation.

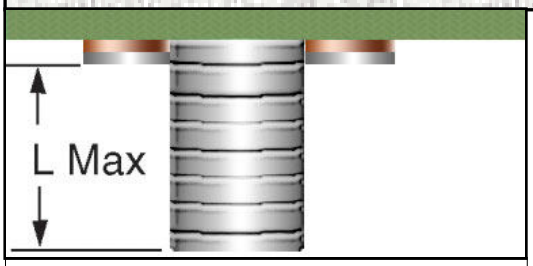
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
THREAD PROTRUSION (L) - MINIMUM

Thread extension may be flush with the edge of the threaded hardware when complete thread engagement can be visually verified, or where protruding threads could present an interference (electrical / mechanical) or snag threat.

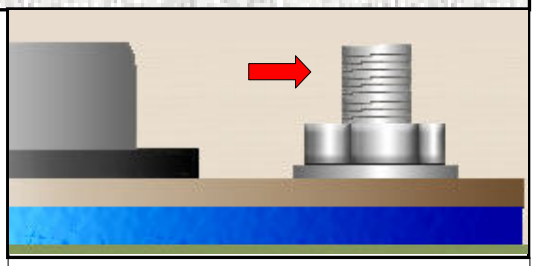
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
THREAD PROTRUSION (L) - MAXIMUM

Thread extension should not be more than 3.0 mm (0.12 in.), plus 1-1/2 threads for bolts or screws up to 25 mm (0.984 in.) in length, or 6.3 mm (0.248 in.) plus 1-1/2 thread for bolts / screws over 25 mm (0.984 in.) in length.

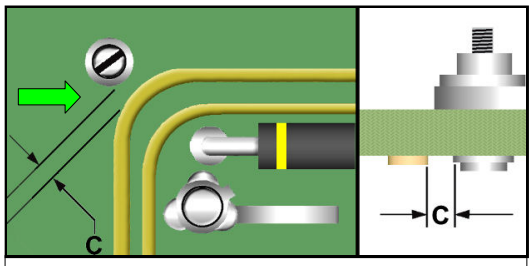
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS THREAD PROTRUSION (L)

Excess thread protrusion represents an assembly, interference, and electrical separation problem, as well as adds unnecessary weight to the assembly.

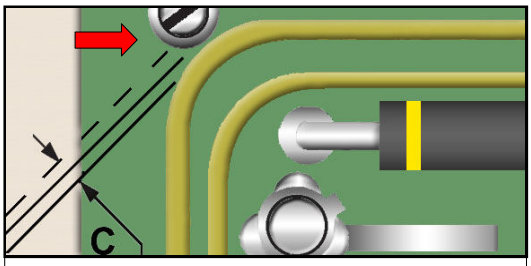
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ELECTRICAL CLEARANCE (C)

The mounting of hardware shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

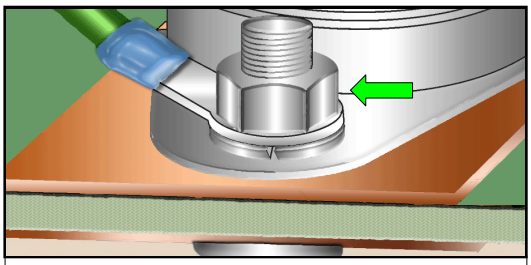
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ELECTRICAL CLEARANCE (C)

The mounting hardware violates minimum electrical spacing requirements. This may result in electrical shorts or mechanical stress to the nearby circuit trace.

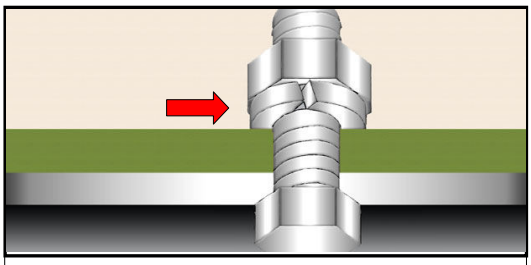
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
FASTENER ASSEMBLY

The fasteners are properly installed and tight. Split-ring lock washer is fully compressed.

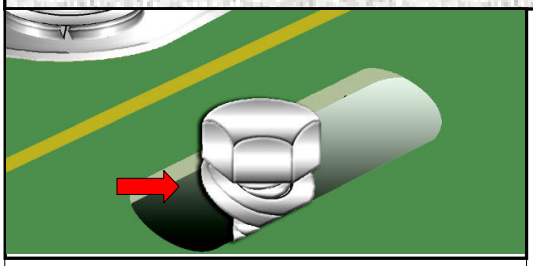
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER FASTENER SEQUENCE

The lock washer has been installed against a nonmetallic / laminate surface. The flat washer is missing.

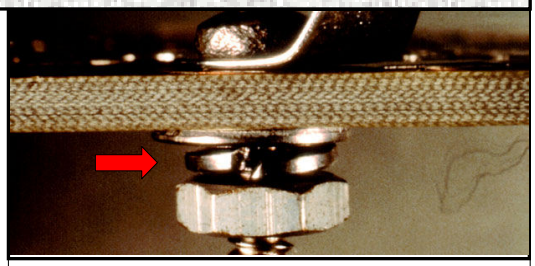
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER FASTENER SEQUENCE

The hardware is missing or improperly installed.

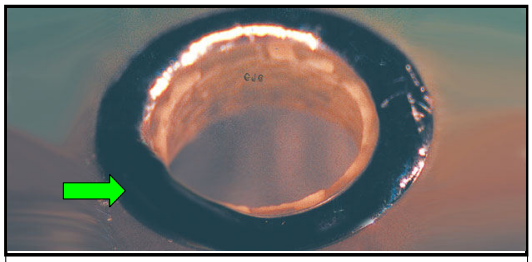
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
LOOSE FASTENER

The fastener is not completely tightened, resulting in the incomplete compression of the lock washer.

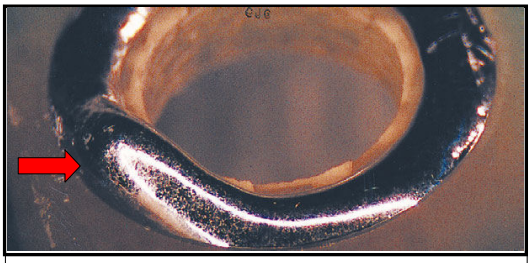
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MOUNTING HOLE SURFACE

The surfaces of mounting holes shall be smooth and level, ensuring the mounting hardware will exert even pressure when installed.

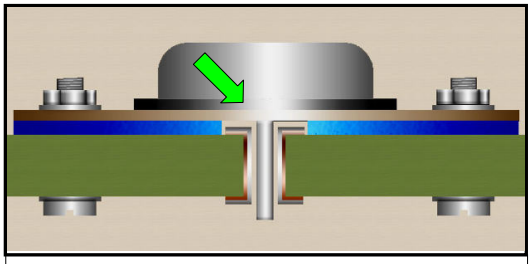
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNEVEN MOUNTING SURFACE

Excess solder on the mounting hole surface prevents the mounting hardware from properly seating.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
HOLE OBSTRUCTION

Parts and components shall be mounted so that they do not prevent the proper fill of plated-through holes required to be soldered.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING TERMINATION LUG

Wires shall not be wrapped around a screw terminal.

Best Workmanship Practice

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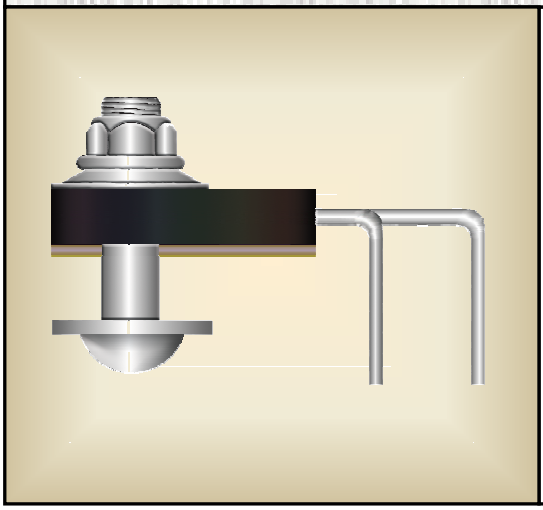
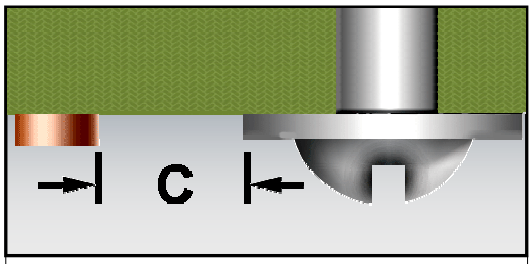


MECHANICAL ASSEMBLY
POWER SEMICONDUCTORS & HEATSINKS

Power semiconductors and heatsinks present a unique challenge to the printed wiring board (PWB) designer. Power devices are capable of producing significant amounts of heat and are typically of greater mass than other components.

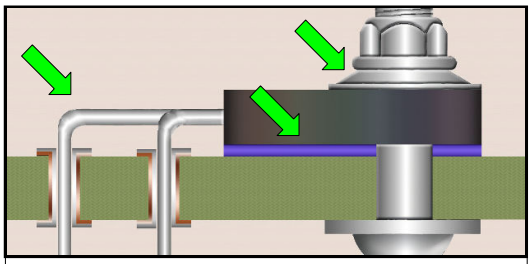
Body types vary from ceramic / epoxy / sand-cast bodied axial components requiring thermally-conductive staking and/or heatsinks; metallized housings with mounting tabs/feet; to axial, radial, and multi-conductor / flatpack components with integral heatsinks.



ACCEPTABLE
ELECTRICAL CLEARANCE (C)

The mounting of hardware shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

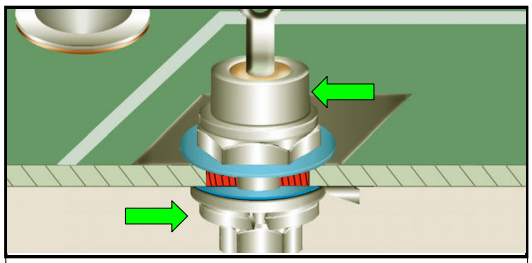
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
INTEGRAL HEATSINK COMPONENTS

Component and mounting hardware are installed per engineering documentation. Heatsink body and dielectric are undamaged, and in full contact with no air gaps.

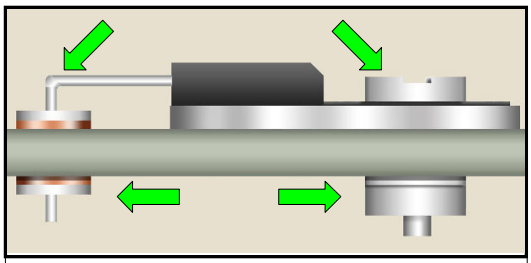
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
POWER DIODE INSTALLATION

Component and mounting hardware are properly installed.

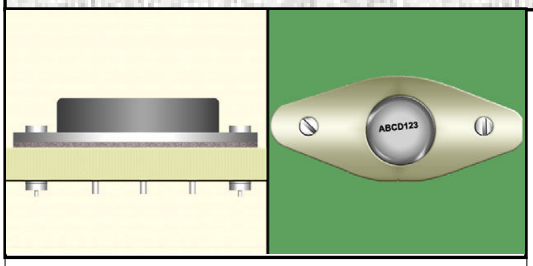
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
POWER TAB INSTALLATION

Component and mounting hardware are properly installed.

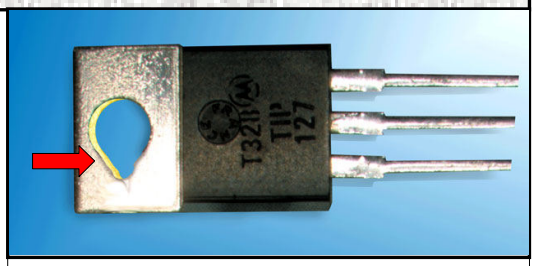
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
POWER TRANSISTOR INSTALLATION

Component and mounting hardware are properly installed.

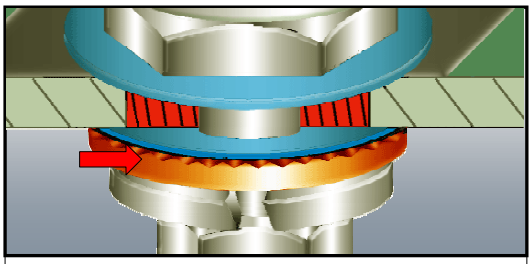
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED HEATSINK

Heatsink body exhibits gouging and deformation, resulting in exposed base metal. Reliability issue.

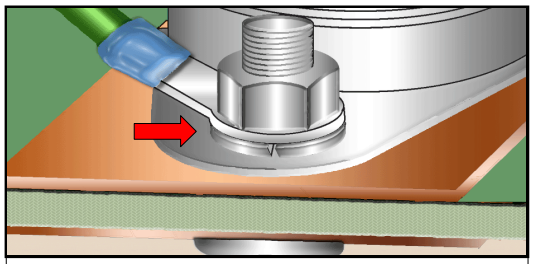
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER MOUNTING HARDWARE INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

Mounting hardware is improperly installed: the toothed surface of the flat washer is in contact with the insulator, which may result in insulator cut-through and reduced compression pressure.

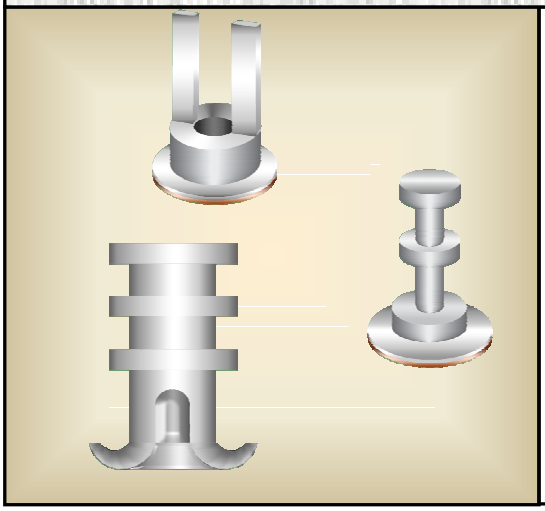
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER MOUNTING HARDWARE INSTALLATION SEQUENCE

Mounting hardware is improperly installed: the lock washer is located between the terminal lug and component case, rather than between the terminal lug and the nut.

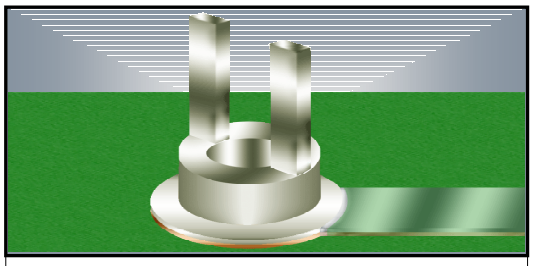
Best Workmanship Practice



TERMINALS

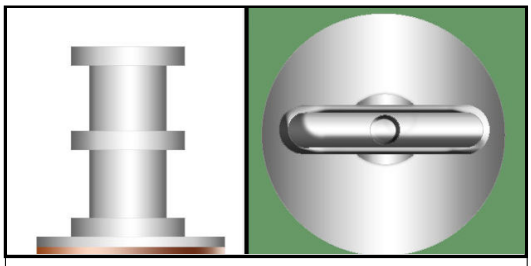
Terminals are generally restricted to applications requiring components to be routinely removed and replaced, such as in high-gain analog tuning circuits. The installation of terminals increases the vertical profile of the printed wiring assembly (PWA) significantly, requiring the designer to ensure minimum electrical spacing requirements are not violated.

See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



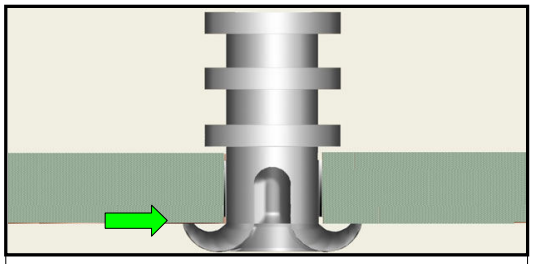
PREFERRED
BIFURCATED TERMINAL

The terminal is properly set, aligned, and straight. Tines are straight. No exposed base metal. Flange is swaged sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment. No damage to the PWB.



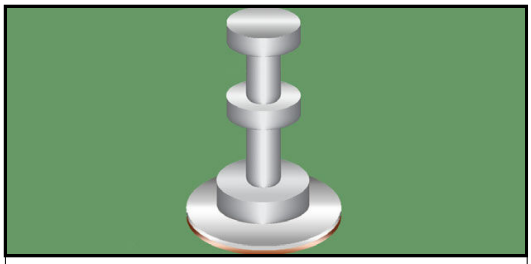
PREFERRED
ELLIPTICAL FUNNEL SWAGE

The flange is uniformly shaped and concentric to the hole or termination pad. Strain / stress marks are minimum, no splits or cracks. Flange is swaged sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment. No damage to the PWB.



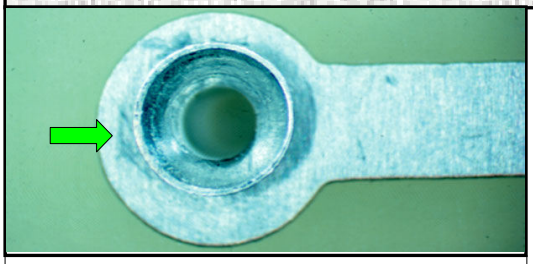
PREFERRED
ROLL FLANGE SWAGE

The flange is uniformly rolled and concentric to the hole or termination pad. Strain / stress marks are minimum, no splits or cracks. Flange is swaged sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment. No damage to the PWB.



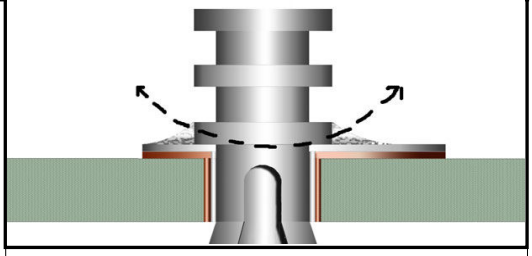
PREFERRED
TURRET TERMINAL

The terminal is properly set and straight. No exposed base metal. Flange is swaged sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment. No damage to the PWB.



PREFERRED
V-FUNNEL FLANGE

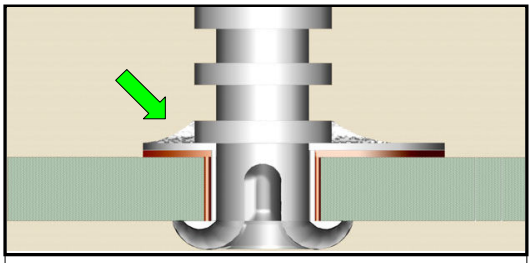
The flange is uniformly swaged and concentric to the hole / pad, and is sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment.. Minimum stress marks, no splits or cracks. No damage to the PWB.



MANDATORY
ADJUSTABILITY

Terminals shall be swaged such that they can be rotated (twisted) under finger force.

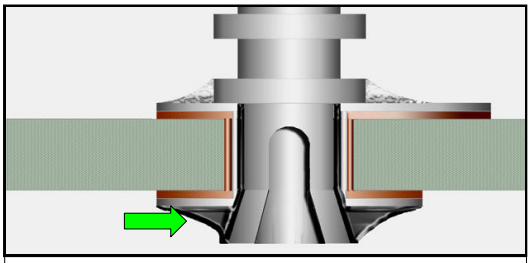
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.4]



MANDATORY
COMPONENT SIDE TERMINATION
ROLL SWAGE

Swage type terminals in non-PTH's, designed to have the terminal shoulder soldered to the printed wiring conductor, shall be secured to the PWB by a roll swage.

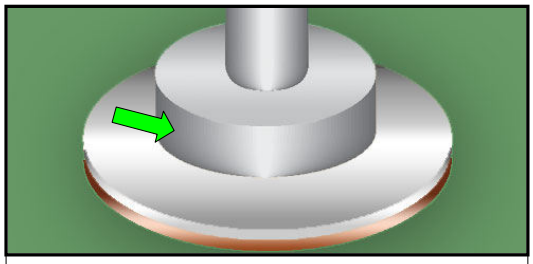
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.2]



ACCEPTABLE
PLATED-THROUGH HOLE (PTH) TERM.
V-FUNNEL / ELLIPTICAL SWAGE

Terminals mounted in plated-through holes (PTH) shall be secured with a V-funnel or elliptical funnel swage. The elliptical funnel is preferred.

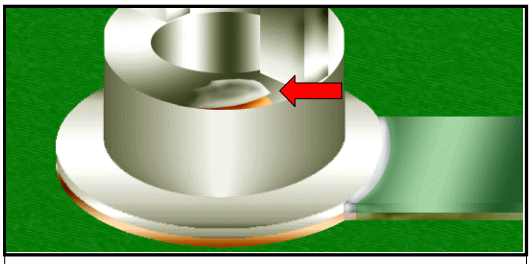
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.4]



MANDATORY
PLATING

Terminals shall be copper; hot dipped, tin-lead coated, or hot reflowed, electrodeposited tin-lead solder. Finish shall be smooth and shiny.

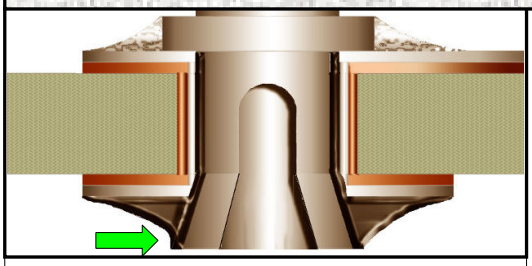
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.12]



UNACCEPTABLE
PLATING DEFECTS

Flaking or peeling plating shall be grounds for rejection.

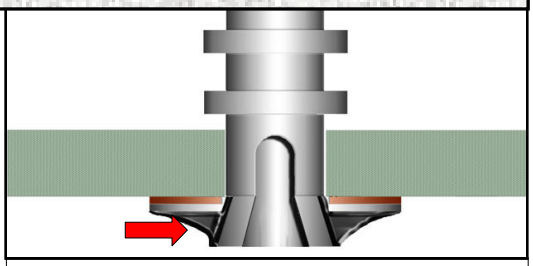
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
SOLDER SIDE TERMINATION
V-FUNNEL SWAGE

Designs calling for soldering of the swaged end of the terminal to the printed wiring conductor on a single-sided PWB shall be secured with a V-funnel swage.

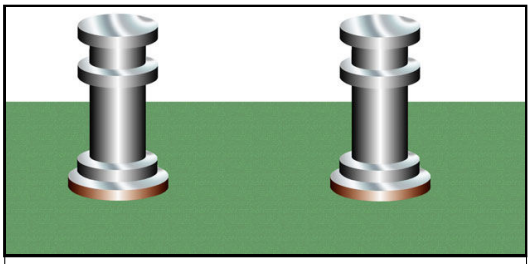
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SWAGE USED

Designs calling for soldering of the swaged end of the terminal to the printed wiring conductor on a single-sided PWB shall be secured with a V-funnel swage.

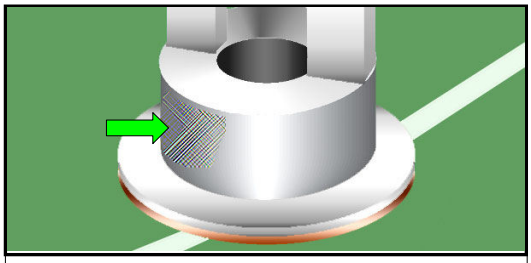
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.14]



ACCEPTABLE
SWAGE SETTING

The terminal shall be swaged sufficiently tight to prevent Z-axis movement, while allowing finger force twisting for adjustment. Swaging shall not damage the PWB or the termination pad.

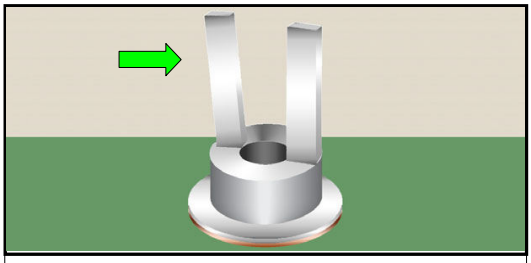
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.a]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH IMPRESSION MARKS

Smooth impression marks (base metal not exposed) resulting from tool holding forces shall not be cause for rejection.

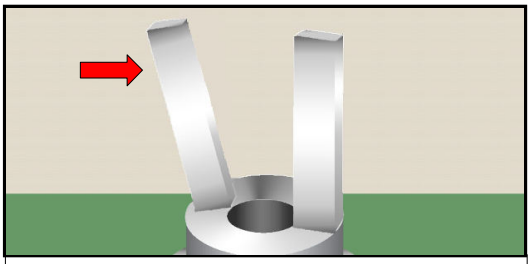
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.2.3]



ACCEPTABLE
RADIAL ALIGNMENT
(BIFURCATED TERMINALS ONLY)

The terminal is slightly twisted out of radial alignment, but the alignment will not adversely affect component installation or strain relief.

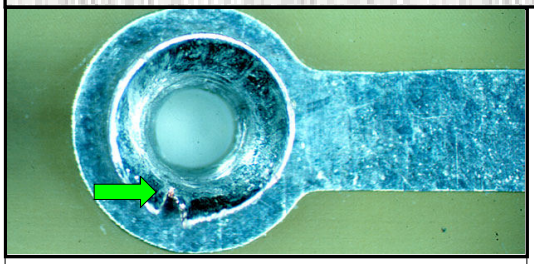
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ALIGNMENT

Bifurcated terminals shall be aligned to allow the proper termination of leads or conductors.

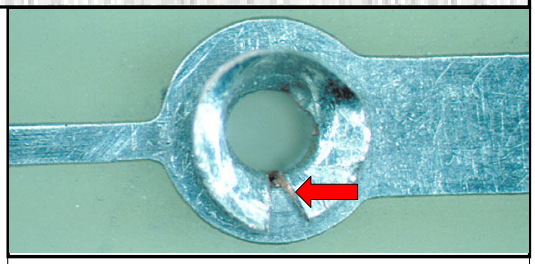
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
RADIAL SPLITS / CRACKS

The rolled area or flange may have a maximum of 3 radial splits or cracks, which are separated by at least 90°, and/or which do not extend beyond the coiled or flared area.

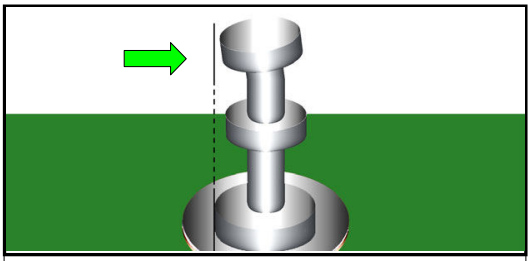
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
RADIAL SPLITS / CRACKS

The rolled area or flange shall not have more than 3 radial splits or cracks, which are separated by less than 90°, and/or which extend beyond the coiled or flared area.

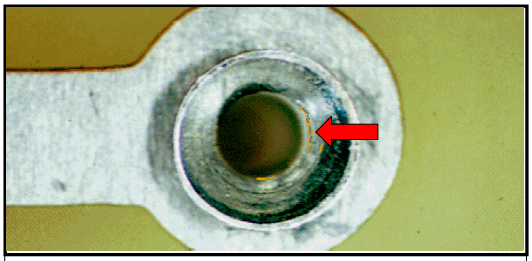
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.b], [13.6.2.a.14]



ACCEPTABLE
VERTICAL MISALIGNMENT

The terminal is slightly bent, but the top edge does not extend beyond the base, and alignment will not violate minimum electrical clearance.

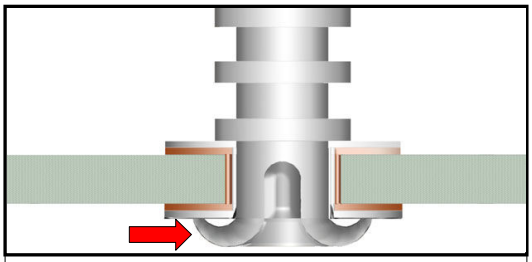
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CIRCUMFERENTIAL SPLITS / CRACKS

After swaging or flaring, the rolled area or flange shall be free of circumferential splits or cracks.

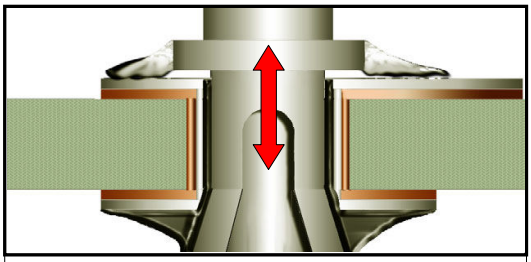
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.b], [13.6.2.a.14]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SWAGE USED

Roll swages shall not be used on plated-through holes.

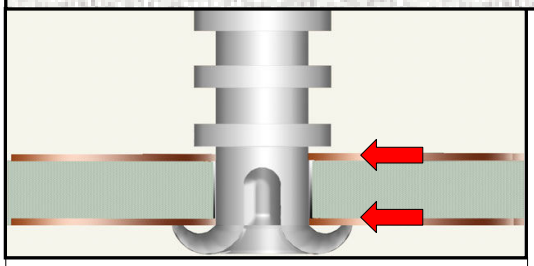
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SWAGE

The flange shall be swaged sufficiently tight to prevent movement in the Z-axis.

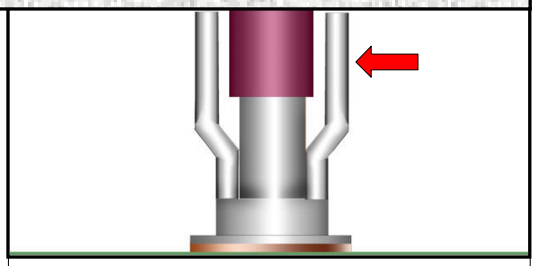
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INTERFACIAL CONNECTIONS

Terminals shall not be used as interfacial connections in non-plated through holes.

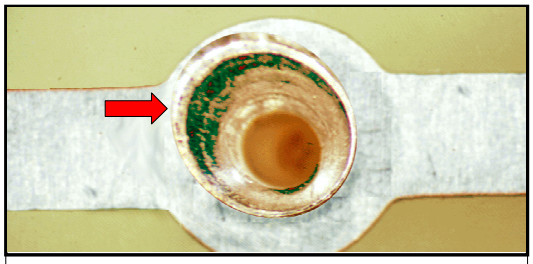
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.a], [13.6.2.a.14]



UNACCEPTABLE
MODIFICATIONS

Terminals shall not be modified to accommodate improper conductor sizes.

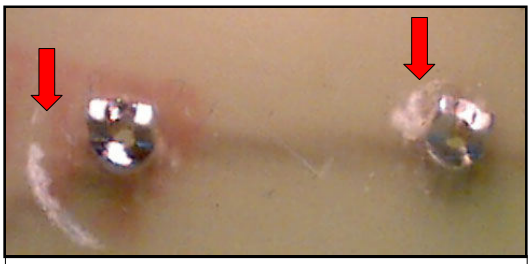
NASA-STD-8739.3 [7.3.2], [13.6.2.a.19]



UNACCEPTABLE
NONCONCENTRIC SWAGE

The swage shall be set approximately concentric to the hole and/or termination pad.

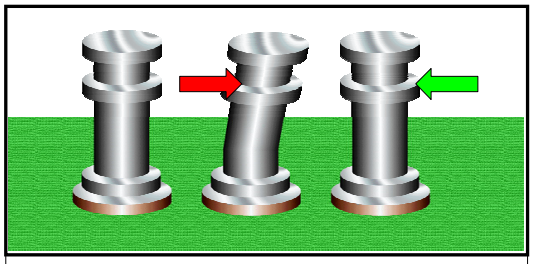
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PWB DAMAGE

The terminal has been swaged to the point that the substrate has been fractured and glass fiber is exposed.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.2.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
TERMINAL DAMAGE

Terminals exhibiting physical damage (i.e.: nicks, gouging, bent / missing tines, reduced cross-section, etc.) shall be rejected.

Best Workmanship Practice

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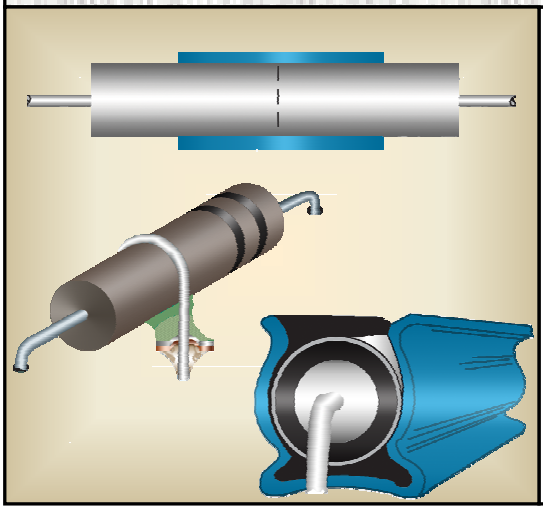
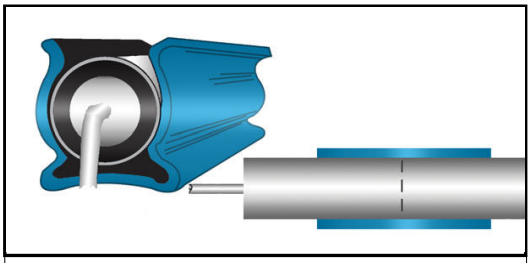


MECHANICAL ASSEMBLY
COMPONENT SUPPORT, MECHANICAL

Components weighing 7 grams (0.25 oz.) total, or 3.5 grams (0.12 oz.) per lead, shall be provided mechanical support, and be bonded to the mounting surface to prevent vibration damage and to improve thermal management. Mechanical support (i.e.: fasteners, through-bolts, clips, etc.) can be used to satisfy this requirement, especially in applications where polymeric staking and bonding methods would not provide satisfactory results.

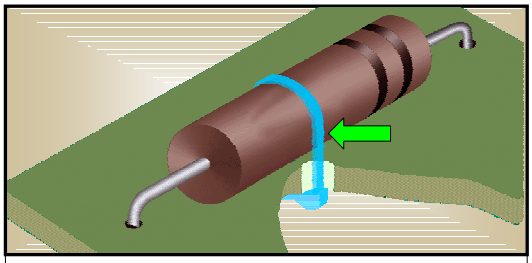
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



ACCEPTABLE
AXIAL COMPONENT CLIP

Component is properly inserted in the clip, and leads exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief. Spacing between lands and uninsulated component body meet or exceed minimum electrical clearance.

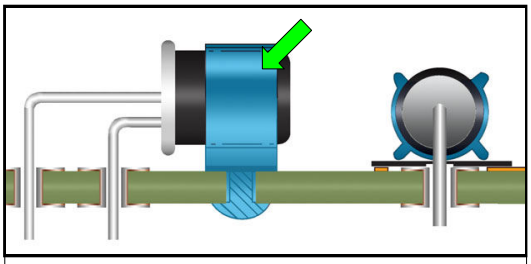
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CABLE TIE HOLD DOWN

The cable tie is approximately centered, smoothly dressed, and is holding the component firmly in place without deforming the case. The component does not exhibit any damage. Not recommended for high heat environments.

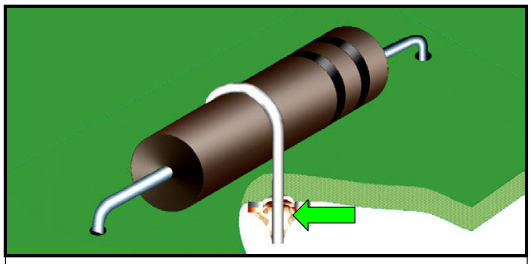
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
RADIAL COMPONENT CLIP

Component is properly inserted in the clip, and leads exhibit proper bend radius and strain relief. Spacing between lands and the uninsulated component body or clip meet or exceed minimum electrical clearance.

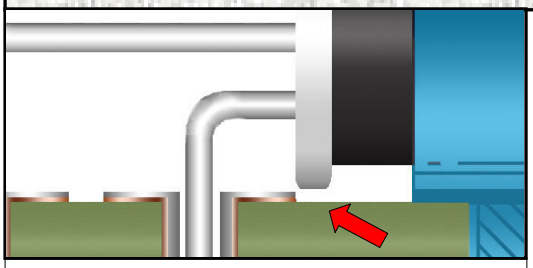
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
WIRE HOLD DOWN

The hold down wire is approximately centered, smoothly dressed, does not violate minimum electrical clearance requirements, and is holding the component firmly in place. The component does not exhibit any damage.

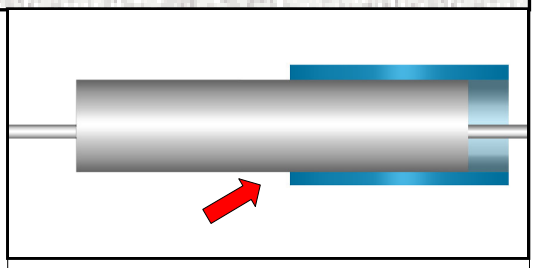
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ELECTRICAL CLEARANCE

Spacing between the land and the uninsulated component body is less than the specified minimum electrical clearance.

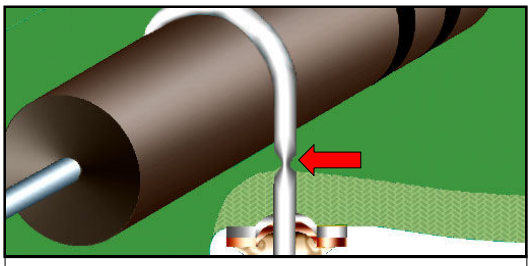
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER POSITIONING

The component is not properly positioned in the mounting hardware, which reduces the effectiveness of the support, and may result in unwanted movement and stress on the solder terminations.

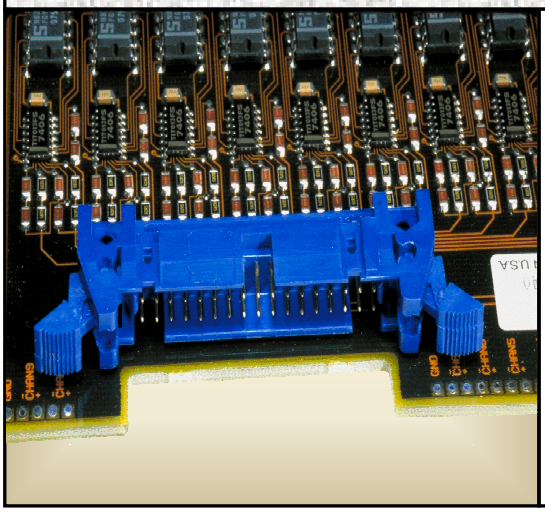
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
KINKED HOLD-DOWN WIRE

The hold-down wire exhibits a kink, which may reduce the strength and reliability of the wire, possibly resulting in breakage. A kink against the component body may result in component damage or failure.

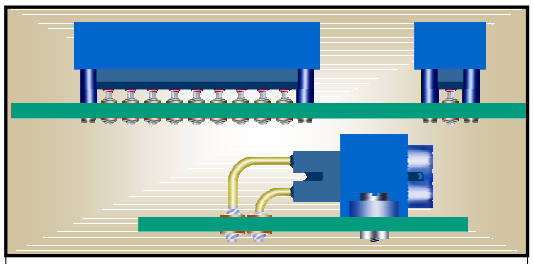
Best Workmanship Practice



SOLDERED CONNECTORS

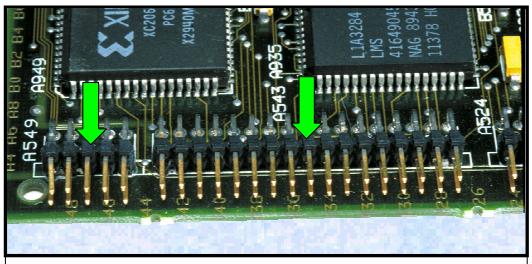
Board-mounted connectors provide an electrical / mechanical solution to the problem of providing reliable input and output of power and signals to the printed wiring assembly (PWA). While the incorporation of connectors into a PWA may increase reliability, bulk, and weight concerns, their use facilitates testing and field replacement, without the hardwiring of harnesses and cables to the PWA.

Connectors are considered to be components, and the mounting and soldering requirements are identical to those imposed on other through-hole components.



PREFERRED
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

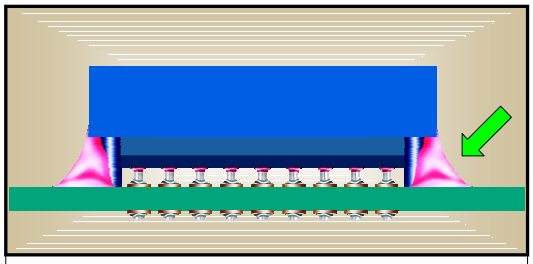
The connector body shall be parallel to and in full contact with the mounting surface. Standoff steps on all leads shall rest on the lands, and lead protrusion shall meet requirements. Mounting features (i.e.: board lock tabs or fasteners) shall be fully inserted and set.



PREFERRED
KEYING

Connectors should be keyed to prevent incorrect mating / interchanging with similar sized / colored connectors.

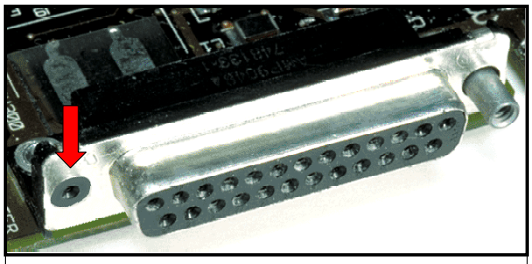
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ALTERNATIVE MECHANICAL MOUNTING

Connectors not supplied with a locking tab or fastener system shall be secured with staking compound. Staking compound shall not be applied over conductive surfaces.

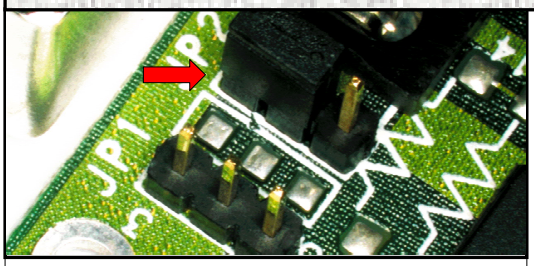
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING MOUNTING / CONNECTING HARDWARE

Missing mounting / connecting hardware can interfere with the proper mating of the connector.

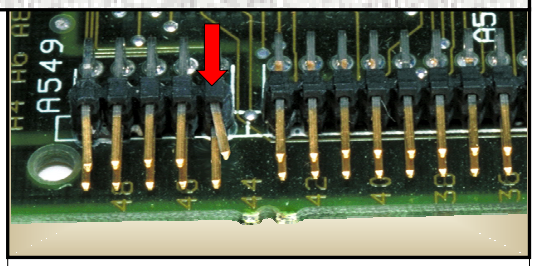
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
JUMPER BLOCKS

Jumper / selector blocks are not recommended for use in flight applications, without prior written approval. Provisions shall be made to ensure positive locking of jumper to prevent movement / unauthorized removal.

Best Workmanship Practice

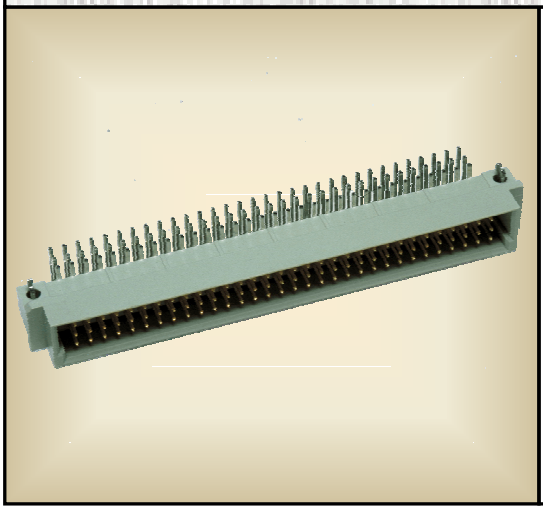


UNACCEPTABLE
MECHANICAL DAMAGE

Connectors exhibiting mechanical damage (i.e.: exposed base metal, dings, bent pins, broken mounts, missing EMI inserts, etc.) shall be rejected. Pins exhibiting minor bending may be reworked with approved tooling and processes.

Best Workmanship Practice

THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
SOLDERLESS (PRESS-FIT) CONNECTORS

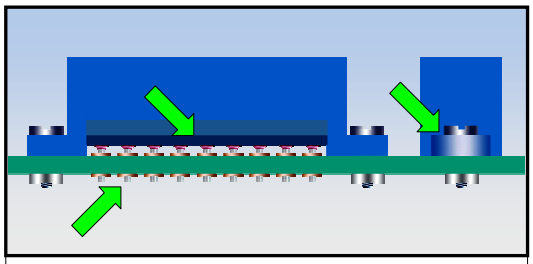


SOLDERLESS (PRESS–FIT) CONNECTORS

The use of high-density, high pin-count connectors (i.e.: backplane connectors, PC104, etc.) in multi-layer boards presents a technical challenge to the designer. The close pin geometries and thermal mass make reliable soldering extremely difficult.

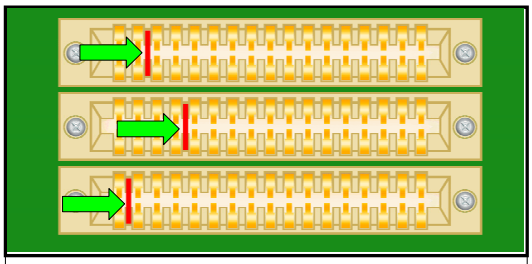
Press-fit technology offers a “solderless” alternative, with spring-pin terminations that produce a reliable electrical termination with a gas-tight, mechanical fit to the plated-through hole.

Press-fit technology shall not be specified for flight applications without prior NASA approval.



PREFERRED
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

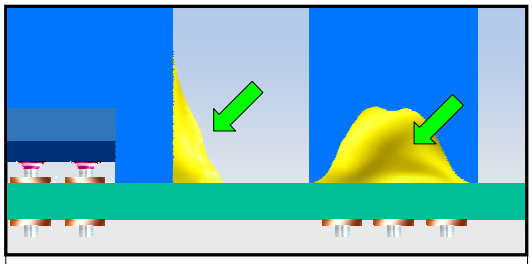
The connector has been properly installed, parallel to, and in full contact with the mounting surface. Pins are fully inserted, even, and meet minimum protrusion requirements. Mounting features (i.e.: board lock tabs or fasteners) have been fully inserted and set.



PREFERRED
KEYING

Connectors should be keyed to prevent incorrect mating / interchanging with similar sized / colored connectors.

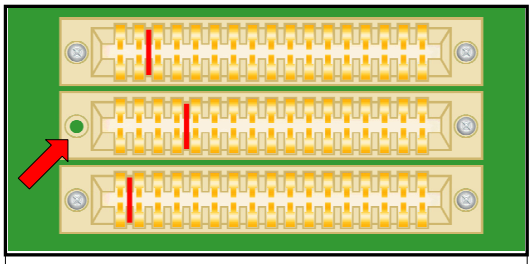
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ALTERNATIVE MECHANICAL MOUNTING

Connectors not supplied with a locking tab or fastener system shall be secured with staking compound. Staking compound shall not be applied over conductive surfaces.

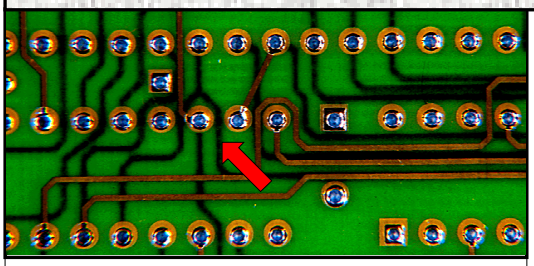
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING MOUNTING / CONNECTING HARDWARE

Missing mounting / connecting hardware can interfere with the proper mating of the connector.

Best Workmanship Practice

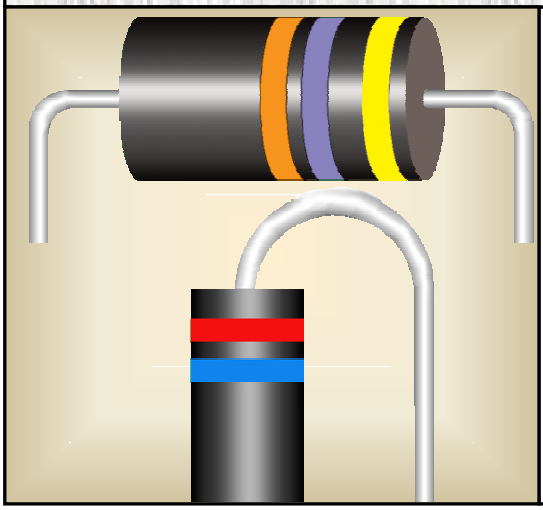


UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDERED TERMINATIONS

Solderless terminations are specifically designed for termination in plated-through holes (PTH) without soldering. The special design will prohibit the formation of a properly wetted solder interface between the pin and the PTH wall.

Best Workmanship Practice

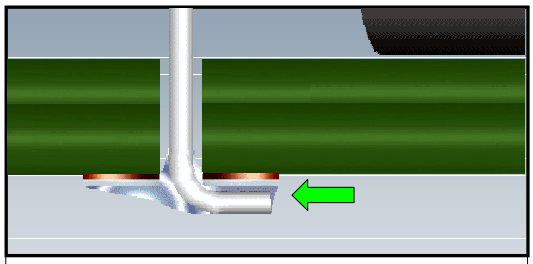
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
AXIAL COMPONENTS



AXIAL COMPONENTS

Axial-leaded components are often considered the most common type of discrete component used in through-hole printed wiring assembly.

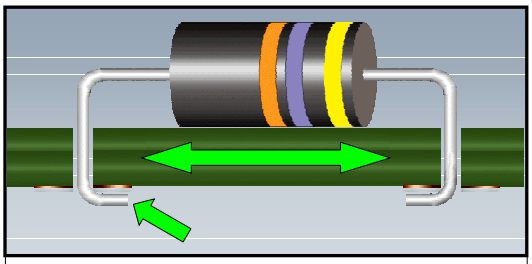
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN NPTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The component terminations are completely wetted. The solder fillets are smooth, nonporous, undisturbed, exhibit a concave profile, and extend to the edge of the termination pad.

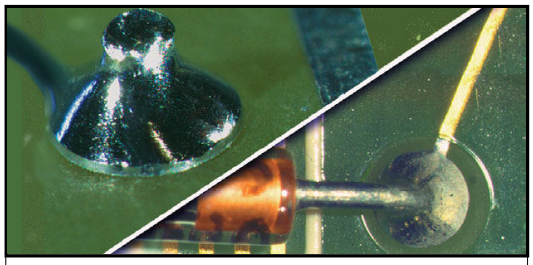
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN NPTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

Parts shall be parallel to, and in full contact with, the mounting surface, and centered between the termination holes. Leads shall be terminated with an off-the-pad-lap solder joint.

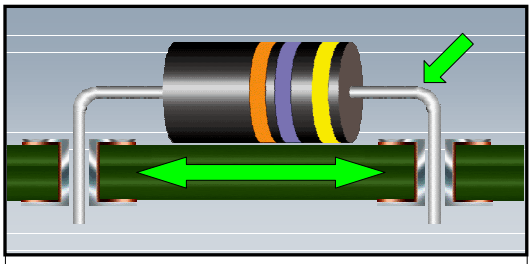
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.a]



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN PTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The component terminations on both sides of the board are completely wetted. The solder fillets are smooth, nonporous, undisturbed, exhibit a concave profile, and extend to the edge of the termination pad.

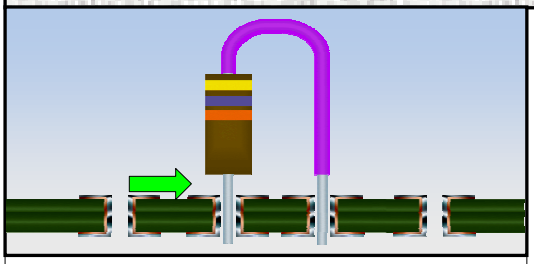
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.f]



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN PTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

Parts shall be parallel to, and in full contact with, the mounting surface, and approximately centered between the termination holes. Leads exhibit proper stress relief bends and spacing.

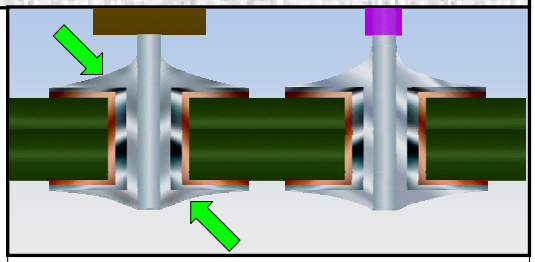
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.a]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNTING IN PTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The component shall be mounted with a minimum of 0.5 mm (0.020 in) to a maximum of 1.27 mm (0.050 in.) clearance between the end of the component and the board surface.

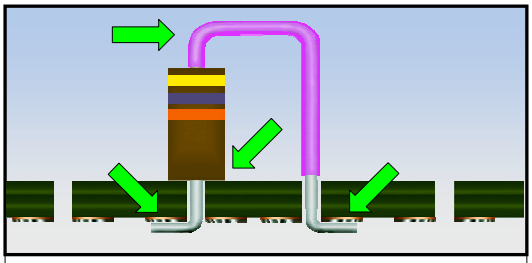
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.b.1]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNTING IN PTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The component terminations on both sides of the board are completely wetted. The solder fillets are smooth, nonporous, undisturbed, exhibit a concave profile, and extend to the edge of the termination pad.

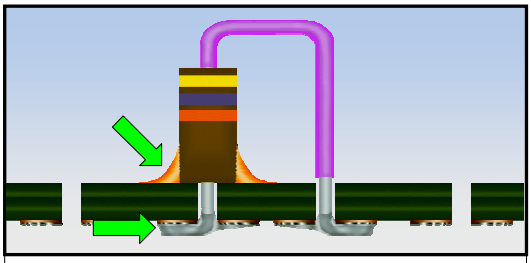
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNTING IN NPTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The component shall be mounted with the end in contact with the board surface, and shall be terminated with an off-the-pad-lap solder joint. The opposite lead shall have 2 right angle bends.

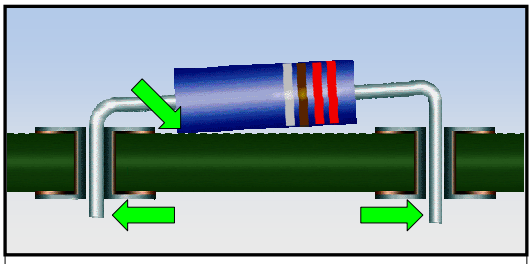
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.b.2]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNTING IN NPTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The component terminations are completely wetted. The solder fillets are smooth, nonporous, undisturbed, exhibit a concave profile, and extend to the edge of the termination pad. The component is staked.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
ANGULARITY

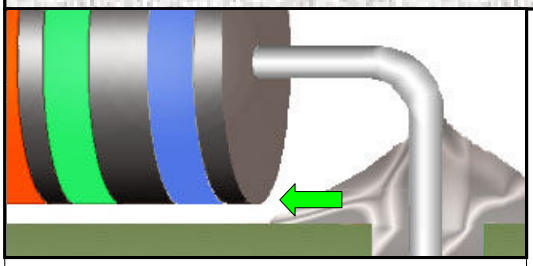
Angularity shall not exceed 0.68 mm (0.025 in.), provided part of the component is in contact with the board, and the angularity does not violate minimum electrical spacing or lead protrusion requirements.

Best Workmanship Practice

ACCEPTABLE
HEAT PRODUCING PARTS

Parts which dissipate heat in quantities of 1 Watt or greater, or in quantities sufficient to damage the laminate shall be mounted with sufficient standoff [≥ 1.5mm (0.060 in.)] and shall be mechanically restrained.

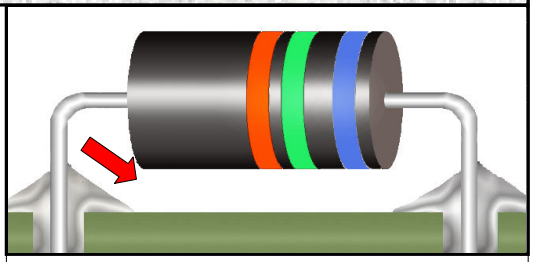
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING GAP

When parts will be bonded, slight spacing [≤ 0.68 mm (0.025 in.)] will be acceptable. The part shall be mounted approximately parallel to the mounting surface.

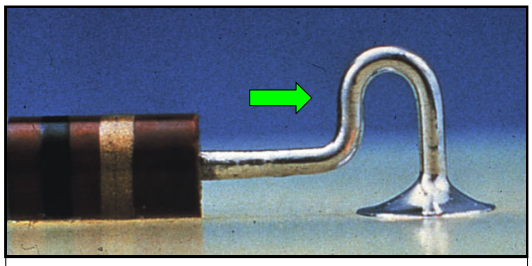
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HORIZONTAL SPACING

Parts intended for horizontal mounting shall be parallel to, and in contact with, the mounting surface. Part spacing above the mounting surface should not exceed 0.68 mm (0.025 in.), unless the part will be bonded.

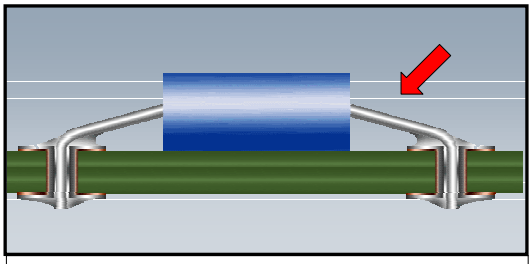
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.a]



ACCEPTABLE
STRESS RELIEF

Stress relief shall be incorporated, wherever possible, into all leads and conductors in solder connections to provide freedom of movement of part leads or conductors between points of constraint. Camel-hump bend pictured.

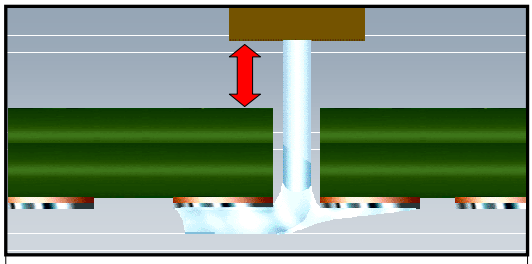
NASA-STD-8739.3. [8.1.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT STRESS RELIEF

Stress relief shall be incorporated, wherever possible, into all leads and conductors in solder connections to provide freedom of movement of part leads or conductors between points of constraint.

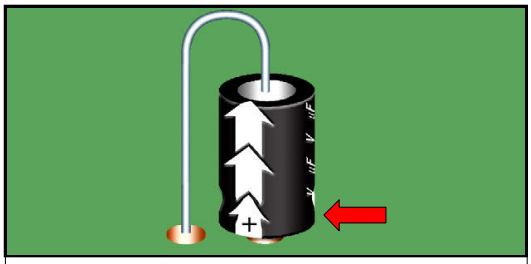
NASA-STD-8739.3. [8.1.1], [13.6.2.a.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER VERTICAL MOUNTING
NON-PLATED-THROUGH HOLE (NPTH)

The component has been mounted with a space between the component end and the board surface, eliminating any mechanical support to the part or solder joint.

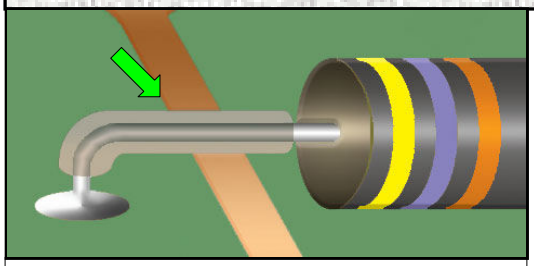
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER VERTICAL MOUNTING
PLATED THROUGH HOLE (PTH)

The component has been mounted with the end of the component in contact with the plated-through-hole (PTH). This will result in solder contact with the part body meniscus.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.b.1], [13.6.2.a.6]

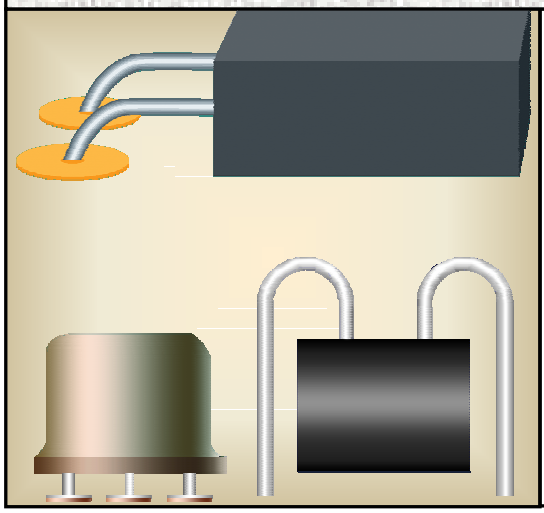


ACCEPTABLE
LEADS CROSSING EXPOSED CONDUCTORS

Leads crossing exposed conductors shall be sleeved with non-conductive sleeving or shrink tubing. Tubing shall be trimmed to meet insulation spacing requirements. Transparent / translucent material is recommended.

Best Workmanship Practice

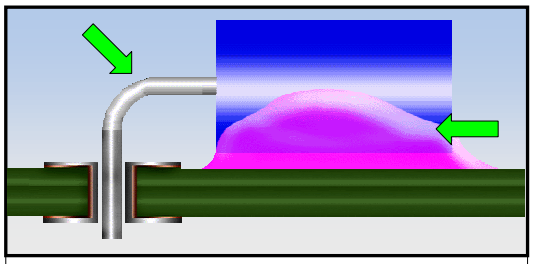
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
RADIAL COMPONENTS



RADIAL COMPONENTS

Radial-leaded components are often used in the packaging of capacitors and transistor TO cans. Radials differ from axials in that the leads exit from a common side of the component, rather from opposite ends or sides. This gives the radial a vertical profile and a smaller printed wiring footprint.

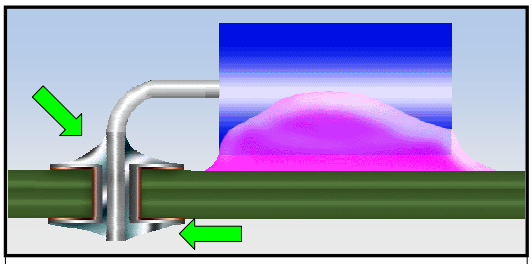
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN PTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The component body is in flat contact with, and bonded to the board surface. Component leads exhibit proper bend radius and bend spacing.

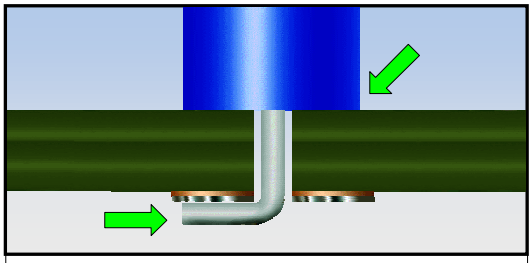
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
HORIZONTAL MOUNTING IN PTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The completed assembly exhibits proper solder fillet formation on both the component and solder sides of the printed wiring board (PWB).

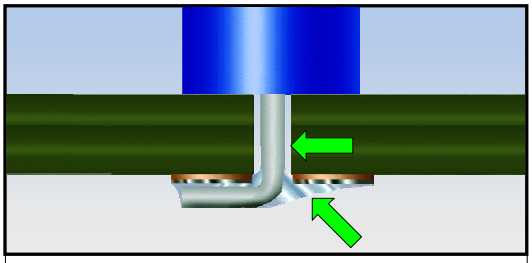
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNT IN NPTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The component has been installed perpendicular to, and the base parallel to, the board. The component may be mounted on the PWB surface and terminated with an off-the-pad lap joint.

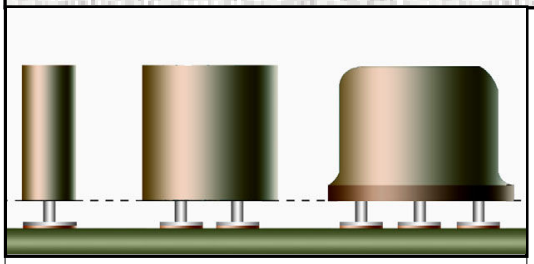
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.3]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNT IN NPTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The component leads have been properly soldered. Solder has not wicked up through the non-plated-through-hole (NPTH) and contacted the lead seal / meniscus.

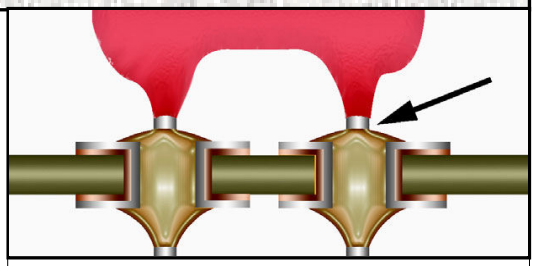
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.3]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNT IN PTH
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The component(s) have been installed with the major axis perpendicular to, and the base parallel to, the board. Space between the base and board: 0.5 mm (0.020 in.) to 1.27 mm (0.050 in.).

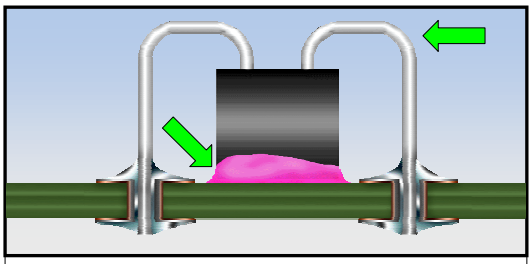
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.3]



PREFERRED
VERTICAL MOUNT IN PTH
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

There is discernible clearance between the coating meniscus and the solder fillet.

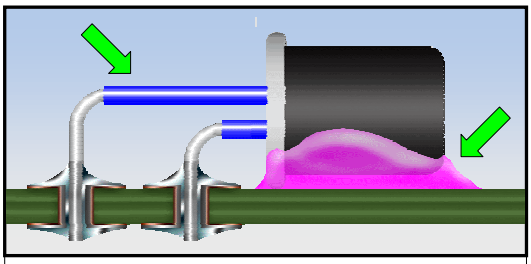
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.3], [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
INVERTED MOUNTING

Components mounted in an inverted position shall be bonded to the mounting surface. The leads shall be provided appropriate stress relief. Leads and devices with metal cases shall meet minimum electrical spacing requirements.

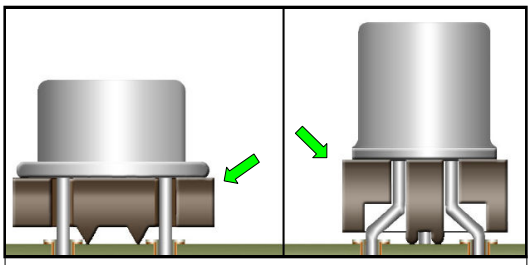
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE MOUNT

The component may be side mounted, provided appropriate stress relief and lead protection is provided.

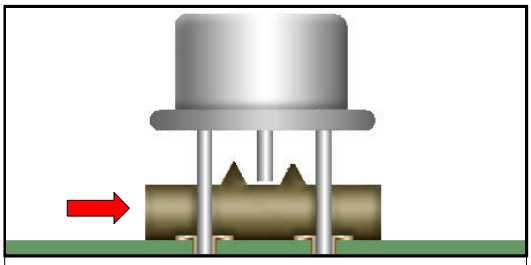
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SPACERS

The spacer is in full contact with both the component base and the board. The spacer's feet are in contact with the board, allowing the solder to flow to the topside of the board, and allow the terminations to be cleaned and visually inspected.

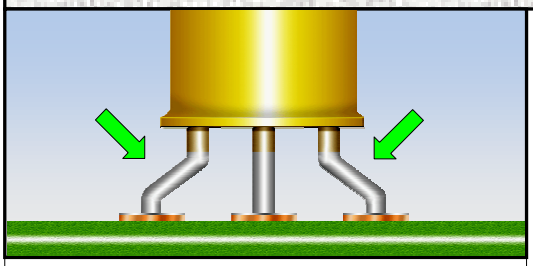
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPERLY INSTALLED SPACER

The spacer is not in contact with both the component base and the board, and is inverted, prohibiting proper solder flow to the topside of the board, or allow the terminations to be cleaned and visually inspected.

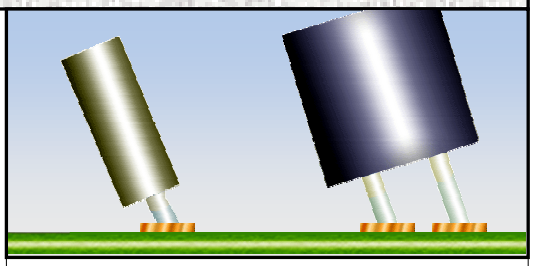
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRESS RELIEF

Stress relief shall be incorporated, wherever possible, into all leads and conductors in solder connections to provide freedom of movement of part leads or conductors between points of constraint.

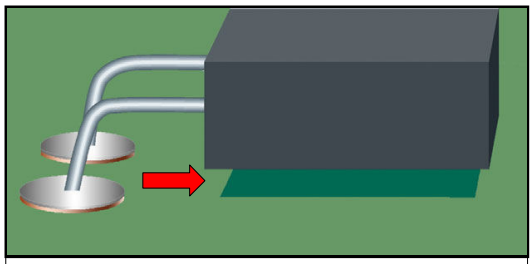
NASA-STD-8739.3. [8.1.1]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

Component tilt does not violate minimum electrical clearance or prohibit the installation or inspection of adjacent components.

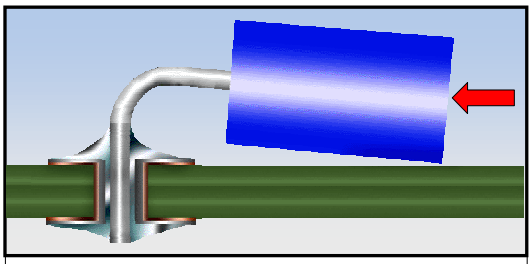
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HORIZONTAL MOUNTING

The component body is not in contact with the mounting surface. This condition may be corrected through the use of underfill or staking material, if approved.

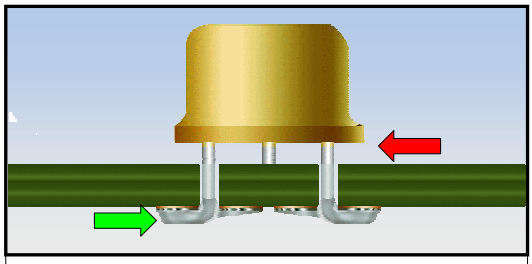
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER HORIZONTAL SPACING

Parts intended for horizontal mounting shall be parallel to, and in contact with, the mounting surface. Part spacing above the mounting surface shall not exceed 0.70 mm (0.027 in.), unless the part will be bonded.

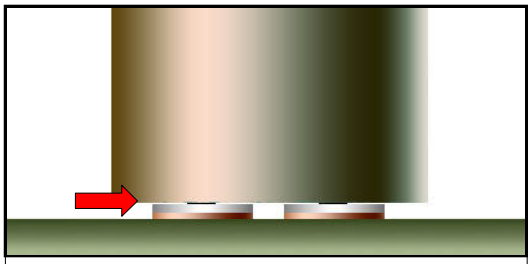
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER VERTICAL SPACING
NON-PLATED-THROUGH HOLE (NPTH)

While the component has not been mounted with the end in contact with the board surface, the leads have been terminated with an off-the-pad-lap solder joint.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER VERTICAL SPACING
PLATED THROUGH HOLE (PTH)

The component has been mounted with the end of the component in contact with the plated-through-hole (PTH). This will result in solder contact with the part body meniscus.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4.2.b.1], [13.6.2.a.6]

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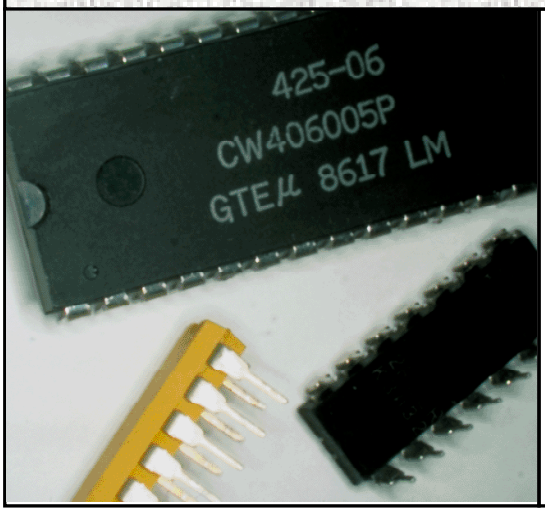
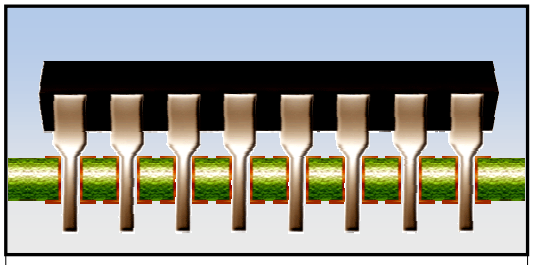
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
COMPONENT INSTALLATION – DUAL IN-LINE PACKAGES (DIPS)



COMPONENT INSTALLATION
DUAL IN-LINE PACKAGES (DIPS)

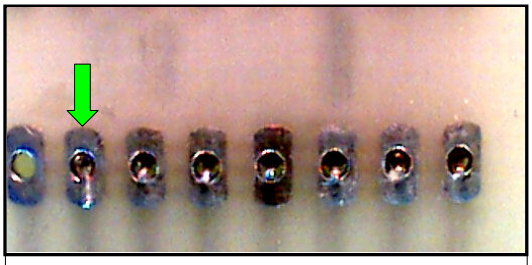
Dual In-Line Packages (DIPS) are the component body type most associated with printed wiring assemblies (PWA) using through-hole technology. The DIP body can be either plastic or ceramic with between 6 to 64 leads.

See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

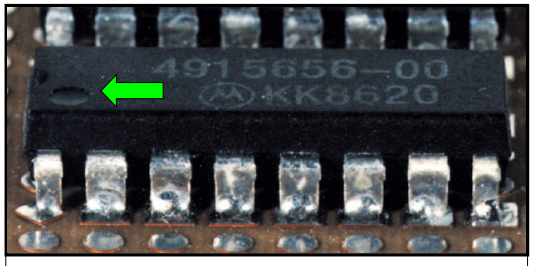
The component has been properly oriented and all leads are fully inserted in the termination holes with the lead standoff step in contact with the lands. The component body is undamaged and part markings are legible and visible on top of component body.



ACCEPTABLE
PARTIALLY CLINCHED LEADS

The corner leads may be partially clinched outward from the chip body’s longitudinal axis to temporarily secure the component. Clinching shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements, or adversely affect solderability.

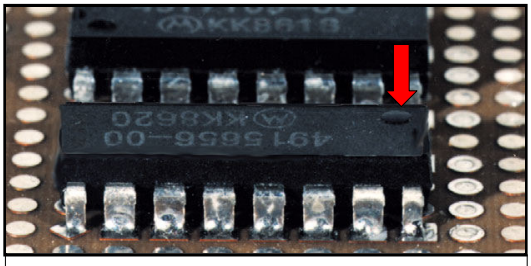
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ORIENTATION / POLARITY

The component has been properly installed. The locator chip’s notch / dimple, which identifies pin 1, is lined up with the silkscreen pattern. A square-shaped solder pad on the printed wiring pattern may also be used to identify pin 1.

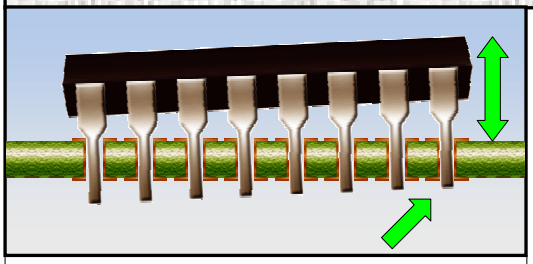
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION / POLARITY

The DIP has been installed backwards. The locator notch / dimple, which identifies pin 1 of the chip, should be lined up to the silkscreen and/or conductive pattern marks.

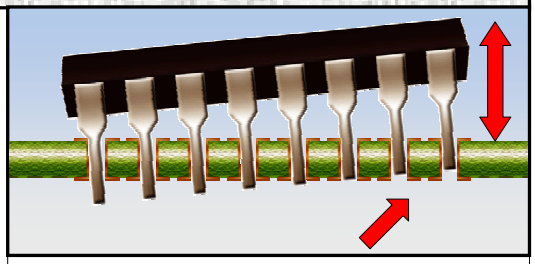
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

The component exhibits minor tilting, but the tilt does not reduce lead protrusion below acceptable minimums, cause the component body to exceed height requirements, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

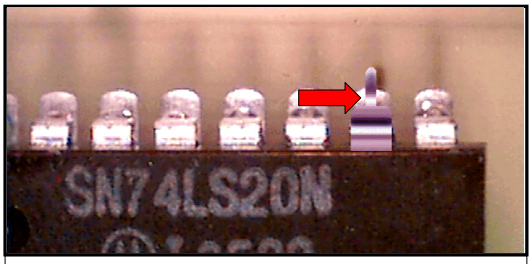
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1], [13.6.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS TILT

Excess part tilt causes the leads to not meet minimum protrusion requirements. Excess tilt may cause the part to exceed maximum height requirements, or result in violation of minimum electrical clearance requirements.

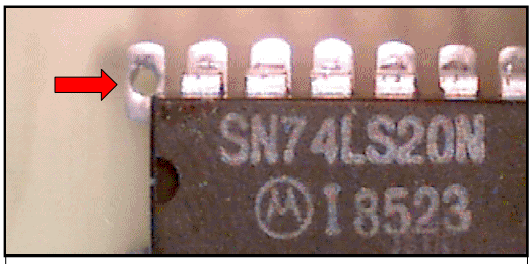
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
BENT / CURLED LEAD

The lead has been smashed into the pad surface, preventing proper insertion. This may be caused by improper lead planarity, an improperly bent lead, or a solder-plugged hole.

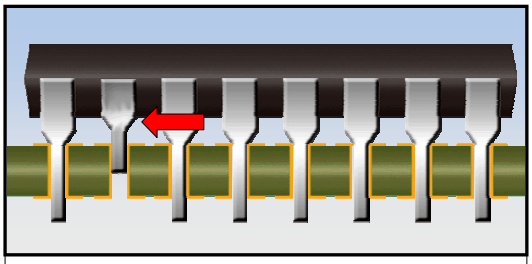
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7], [13.6.2.a.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION / OFFSET

The component has been incorrectly installed, with the chip offset with respect to the intended termination pattern. This failure is typically caused by insertion of the chip leads into the bypass capacitor mounting holes.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]

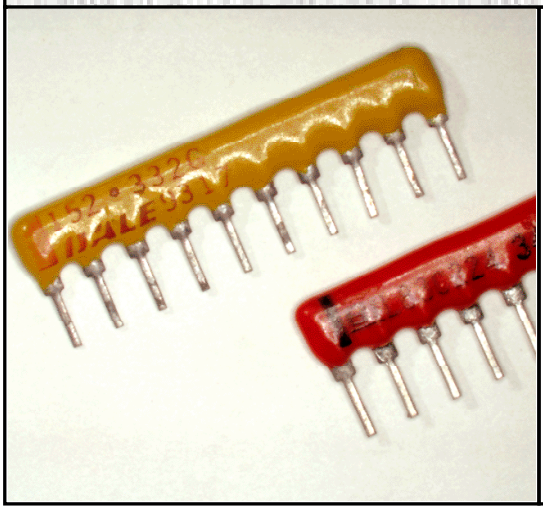


UNACCEPTABLE
PISTONED LEAD

The lead has been displaced vertically (pistoned) during insertion. This may be caused by improper lead planarity, an improperly bent lead, or a solder-plugged hole.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7], [13.6.2.a.21]

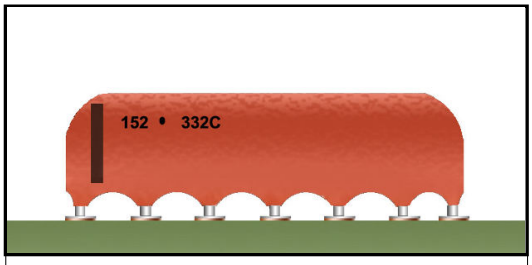
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
SINGLE IN-LINE PACKAGE / SIP



SINGLE IN-LINE PACKAGE (SIP)

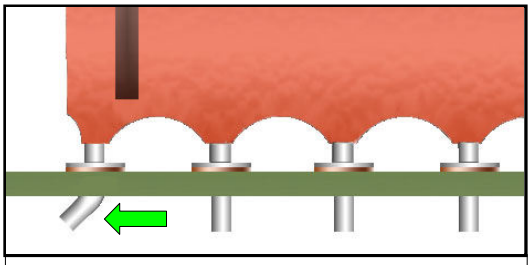
Single In-Line Package (SIP) components have a flat body oriented vertically to the printed wiring board and a single row of pins or leads. Most small-form SIPs are parallel-array devices of common value components (i.e.: diode, resistor arrays). Large-form SIPs are usually hybrid circuits (i.e. timers, oscillators, etc.). The SIP body can be either plastic or ceramic with between 4 to 64 leads.

See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

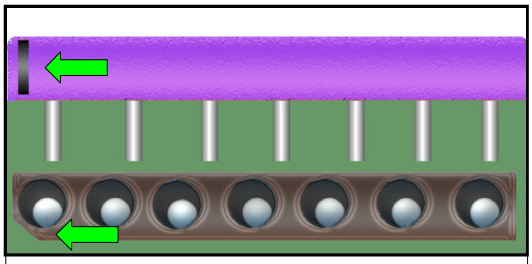
The component has been properly oriented and all leads are fully inserted in the termination holes with the lead standoff step in contact with the lands. The component body is undamaged and part markings are legible and visible.



ACCEPTABLE
PARTIALLY CLINCHED LEADS

The end leads may be partially clinched to temporarily secure the component. Clinching shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements, or adversely affect solderability.

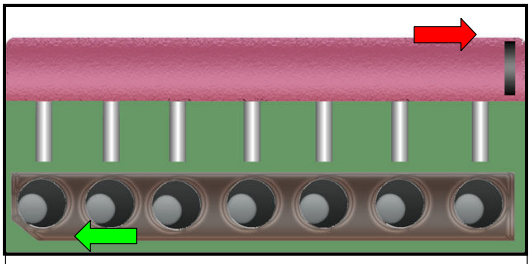
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ORIENTATION / POLARITY

The component has been properly installed. The chip’s notch / paint stripe, which identifies pin 1, is lined up with the silkscreen pattern. A square-shaped solder pad on the printed wiring pattern may also be used to identify pin 1.

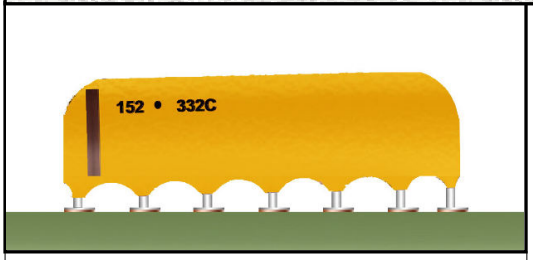
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION / POLARITY

The SIP has been installed backwards. The locator notch / dimple, which identifies pin 1 of the chip, should be lined up to the silkscreen and/or conductive pattern marks.

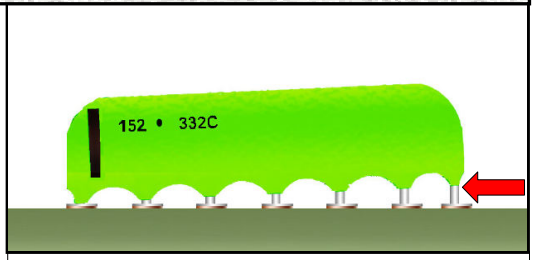
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

The component exhibits minor tilting, but the tilt does not reduce lead protrusion below acceptable minimums, cause the component body to exceed height requirements, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

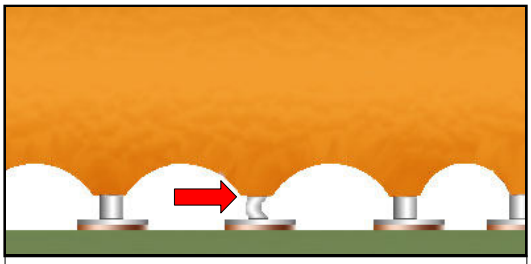
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1], [13.6.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS TILT

Excess part tilt causes the leads to not meet minimum protrusion requirements. Excess tilt may cause the part to exceed maximum height requirements, or result in violation of minimum electrical clearance requirements.

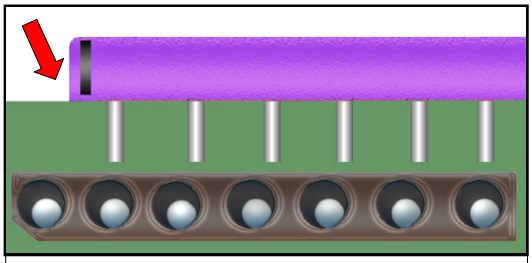
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
BENT / CURLED LEAD

The lead has been smashed into the pad surface, preventing proper insertion. This may be caused by improper lead planarity, an improperly bent lead, or a solder-plugged hole.

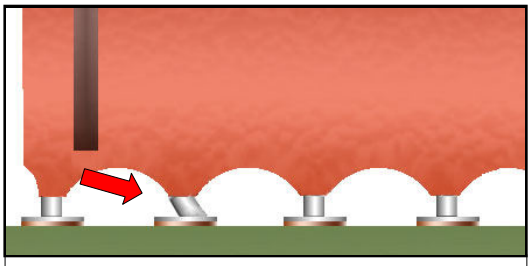
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7], [13.6.2.a.21]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION / OFFSET

The component has been incorrectly installed, with the chip offset with respect to the intended termination pattern.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]

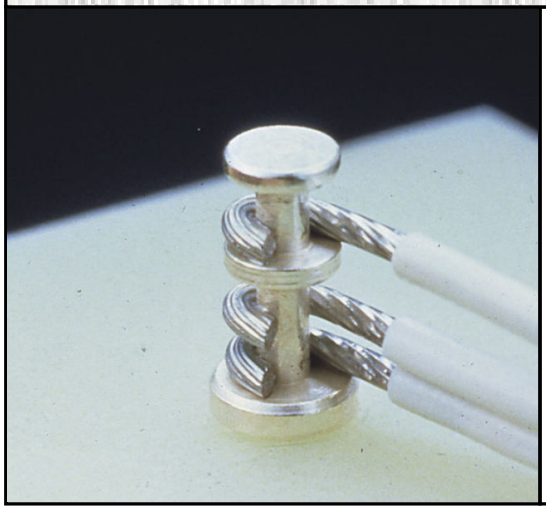


UNACCEPTABLE
PISTONED LEAD

The lead has been displaced vertically (pistoned) during insertion. This may be caused by improper lead planarity, an improperly bent lead, or a solder-plugged hole.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.7], [13.6.2.a.21]

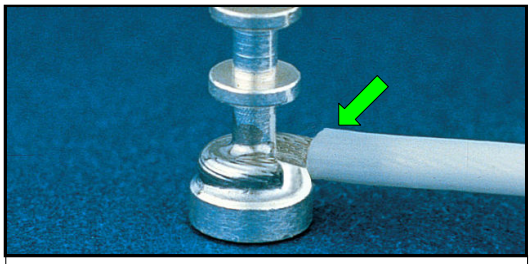
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
TERMINALS



TERMINALS

The proper installation and soldering of wires and component leads to terminals is important to the overall electrical and mechanical reliability of the termination. Particular attention should be paid to routing and stress relief.

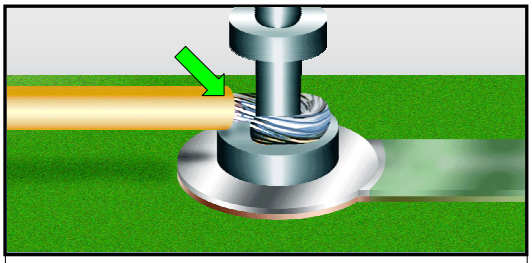
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
INSULATION GAP

The insulation gap (referenced from the first point of contact of the conductor to the terminal) shall be less than two (2) wire diameters, but shall not be imbedded in the solder joint. The wire contour shall be visible at the end of the insulation.

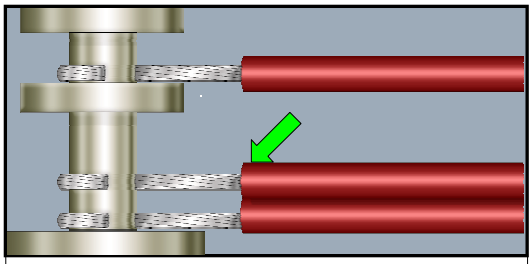
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1], [9.1.2]



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
INSULATION GAP (SPECIAL EXCEPTION)

When characteristic impedance or other circuit parameters may be affected (i.e.: high-voltage, high-frequency terminations, etc.), the insulation clearance requirements may be modified. All variations shall be documented.

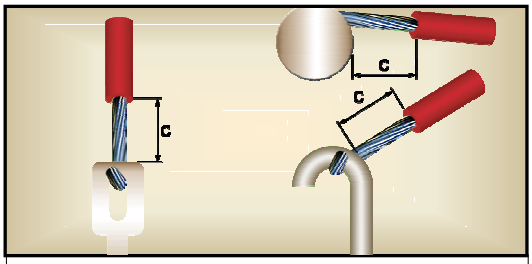
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.4]



GENERAL REQUIREMANTS
INSULATION GAP
MULTIPLE TERMINATIONS

Conductor insulation clearances are not required to be equal for applications involving the termination of multiple (common) conductors to a terminal in parallel orientation.

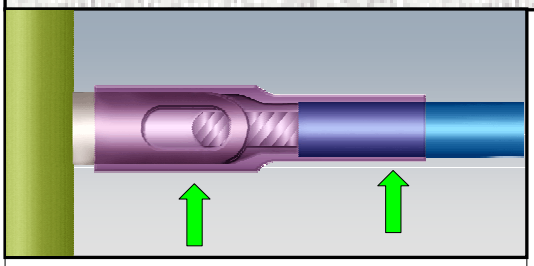
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER INSULATION GAP (C)

The insulation gap (referenced from the first point of contact of the conductor to the terminal) is greater than two (2) wire diameters. Excessive insulation gap may present a birdcaging or shorting risk.

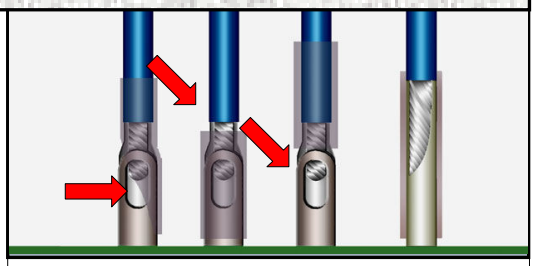
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.2]



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
INSULATION SLEEVING

Sleeving shall completely cover and fit snugly around the terminal and the wire insulation, and overlap the wire insulation by a minimum of 5 mm (0.20 in.), or two (2) insulated wire diameters, whichever is larger.

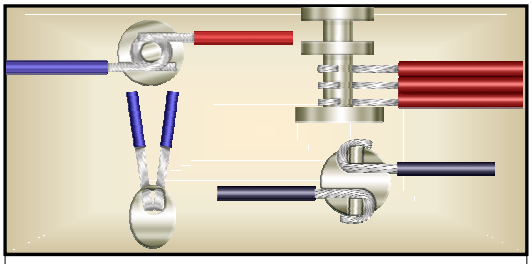
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER INSULATION SLEEVING

The sleeving shall not be pierced, split, charred, or otherwise damaged, and shall completely cover the terminal and overlap the wire insulation. The sleeving shall fit snugly around the terminal and the wire insulation.

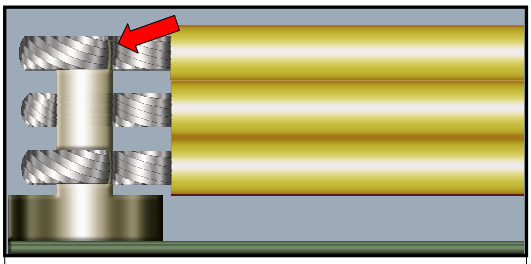
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.8]



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
TERMINAL FILL

Conductors shall be in full contact with the terminal and each other. They shall be mounted as close to the base as allowed by the insulation or body shape, and not wrapped onto each other or extend beyond the top of the terminal.

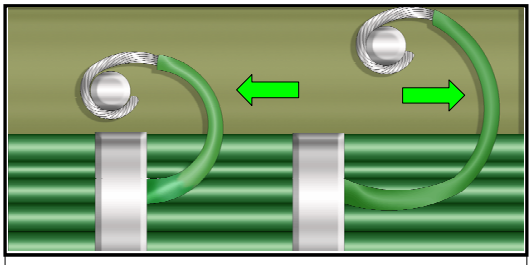
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE CONDUCTOR FILL

The number of conductors shall not exceed the capacity of the terminal post. Conductors shall not extend above the top of the terminal post.

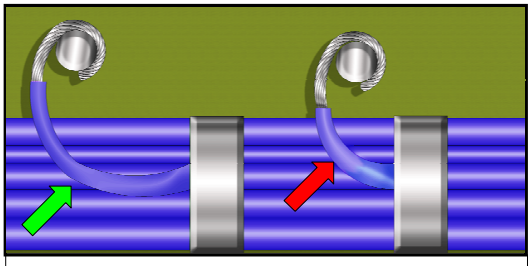
Best Workmanship Practice



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
SERVICE LOOPS / STRESS RELIEF

Wire / harness terminations shall exhibit an even distribution of conductor dress and tension throughout the cable and harness, to prevent stress to the terminations.

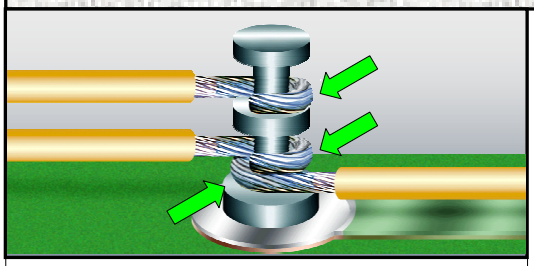
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.5], [9.1.7], [13.6.1.h]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [4.3.5.c], [19.6.1.e.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SERVICE LOOP

The termination exhibits an uneven dress length of individual conductors, which may result in a concentration of stress on a single conductor.

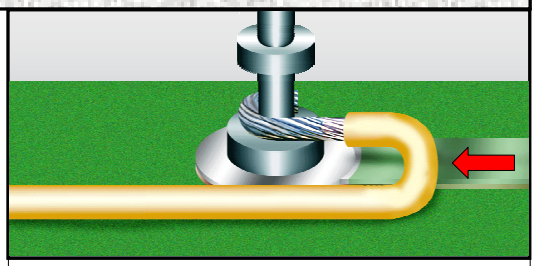
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.10], [13.6.2.a.17]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [4.3.5.c]



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS
WRAP ORIENTATION

Conductors may be wrapped clockwise (CW) or counterclockwise (CCW) to the terminal, but the curvature of dress shall be such that the wrap will tighten against the terminal if the conductor is pulled.

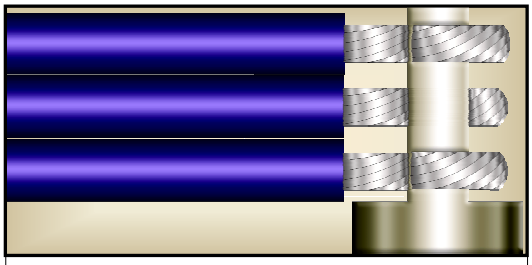
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WRAP ORIENTATION

The conductor's curvature and direction of dress are improper, and the wrap will loosen against the terminal if the conductor is pulled. This will eventually weaken the solder joint.

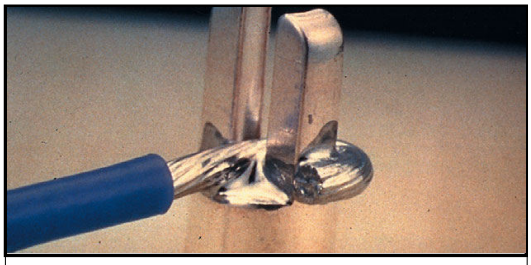
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.10]



PREFERRED
BIFURCATED TERMINALS

Conductors shall enter the slot, perpendicular to the posts, and make positive contact with at least one post corner. Wires shall be placed in ascending order, with largest on the bottom, and wrap directions shall alternate.

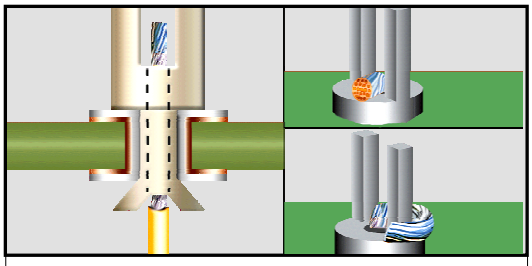
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3.2]



PREFERRED
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
SOLDERED ASSEMBLY

The lead profile is discernible, with wire and terminal interface completely wetted. The solder is smooth and shiny, and fillets the entire wire/lead and terminal interface.

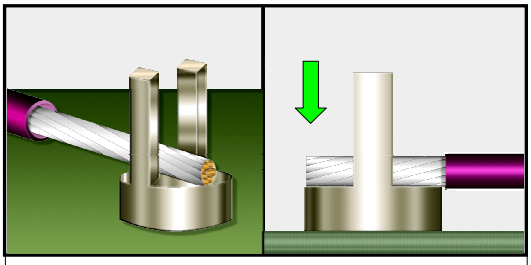
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.2], [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
BOTTOM ROUTE

The uninsulated conductor end shall enter the terminal from the bottom, be brought through one of the side slots at the top, and wrapped as required for a side route termination.

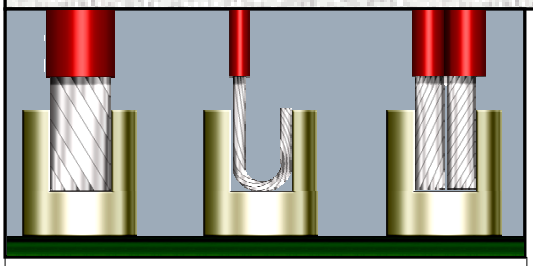
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3.3]



ACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
STRAIGHT-THROUGH TERMINATION

Single conductors may be terminated straight-through, providing the conductor is in contact with the base, exhibits proper insulation clearance, and has no end overhang.

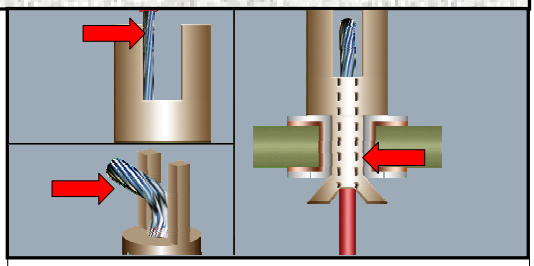
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3.2]



ACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
TOP TERMINATION

The conductor is in contact with both posts. Any space between the posts has been filled with filler wire or by doubling. Top termination is not recommended for flight hardware.

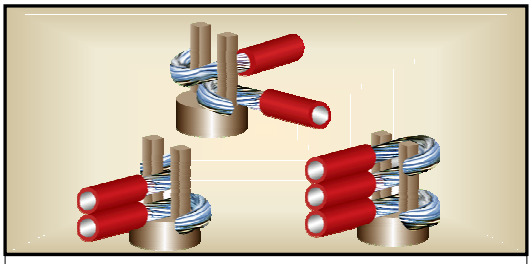
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
TOP ENTRY – PARTIAL FILL

The top route termination has unfilled space between the posts and the conductor, and no filler wire or doubling has been used to fill the gap.

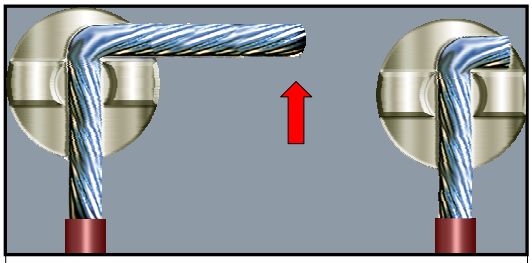
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
WRAP DIRECTION

When multiple conductors are connected to a terminal, the direction of bend of each additional conductor shall alternate and the termination shall alternate posts.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
BIFURCATED TERMINALS
END TAIL OVERHANG

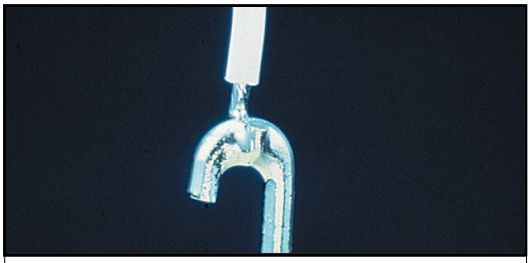
The end tail shall not extend beyond the diameter of the terminal base, except when physical clearance is adequate. End tail overhang may violate minimum electrical clearance.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3], [13.6.2.a.10]

PREFERRED
HOOK TERMINALS

The conductor is wrapped in full contact with the terminal for a minimum of 180° and a maximum of 270°, and is attached to the hook within the 180° arc. Insulation clearance is less than one (1) wire diameter, and wire end does not protrude.

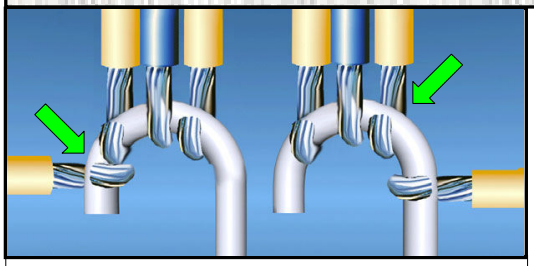
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1], [9.4]



PREFERRED
HOOK TERMINALS
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The lead profile is discernible, with wire and terminal interface completely wetted. The solder is smooth and shiny, and fillets the entire wire/lead and terminal interface.

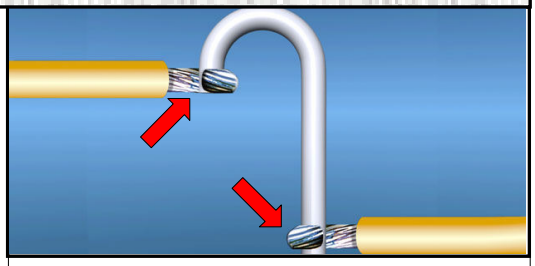
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1.]



ACCEPTABLE
HOOK TERMINALS - WRAP LOCATIONS

The conductor(s) are wrapped in full contact for a minimum of 180°. Wraps alternate direction and do not overlap. Terminations are located more than one wire diameter from hook end, with majority located within the 180° arc (hook).

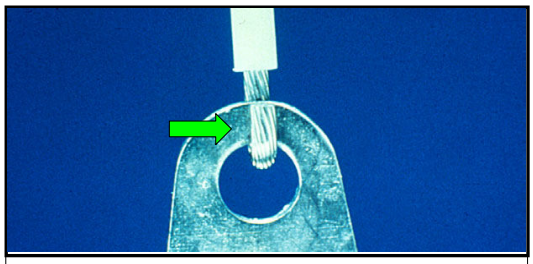
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
HOOK TERMINALS
IMPROPER WRAP LOCATION

The termination is not located in the 180° arc of the terminal, with the wrap located less than one wire diameter from the hook end.

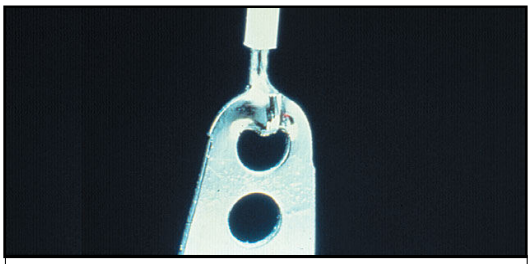
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.4], [13.6.2.a.10]



PREFERRED
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL

The wire passes through the eye of the terminal, is wrapped in contact with both sides of the terminal, and does not overhang the terminal edge. Insulation clearance is less than 1 wire diameter.

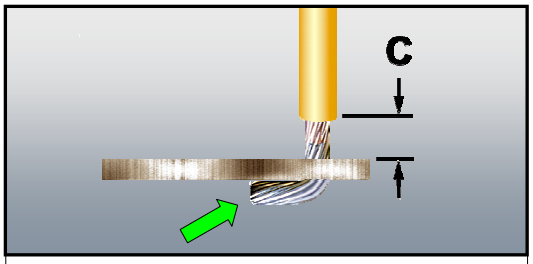
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.5]



PREFERRED
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL
SOLDERED ASSEMBLY

The lead profile is discernible, with wire and terminal interface completely wetted. The solder is smooth and shiny, and fillets the entire wire/lead and terminal interface.

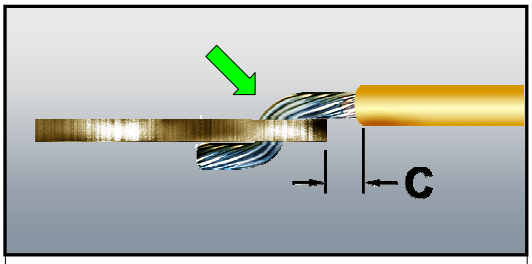
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL
SIDE ENTRY

The wire passes through the terminal eye, and exhibits a quarter turn (90°) wrap in contact with the terminal face. Termination exhibits proper insulation clearance (C).

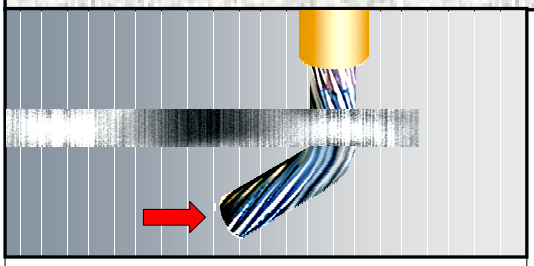
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.5]



ACCEPTABLE
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL
ZIG-ZAG TERMINATION

The wire passes through the terminal eye and exhibits two (2) quarter turn (90°) zig-zag wraps in contact with both terminal sides. Termination exhibits proper insulation clearance (C).

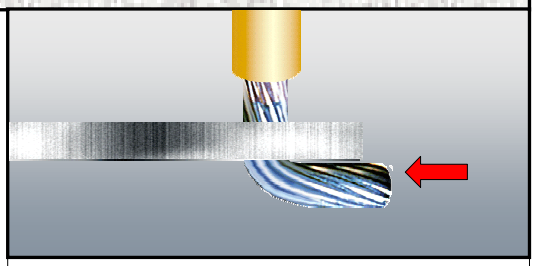
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL
SIDE ENTRY

The wire passes through the terminal eye, but exhibits a wrap that is less than 90° and which is not in contact with the terminal face.

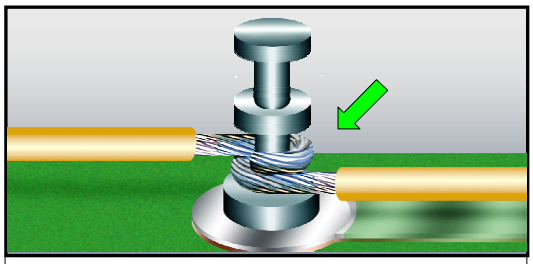
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.5], [13.6.2.a.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINAL
SIDE ENTRY

The wire passes through the terminal eye, and exhibits a quarter turn (90°) wrap in contact with the terminal face, extending over the terminal edge.

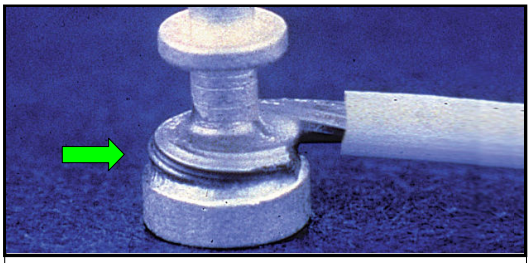
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.5], [13.6.2.a.10]



PREFERRED
TURRET TERMINAL

The conductors are parallel to each other and to the mounting base. Conductors are mechanically secure, wrapped a minimum of 180° to 360°, non-overlapping, with the first conductor in contact with the terminal base.

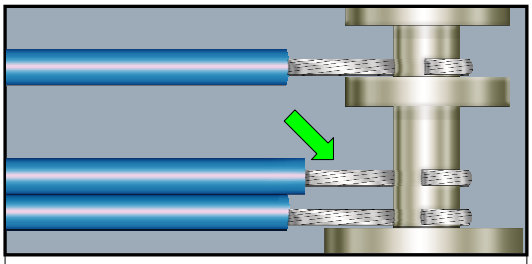
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2]



PREFERRED
TURRET TERMINAL
SOLDERED ASSEMBLY

The lead profile is discernible, with wire and terminal interface completely wetted. The solder is smooth and shiny, and fillets the entire wire/lead and terminal interface.

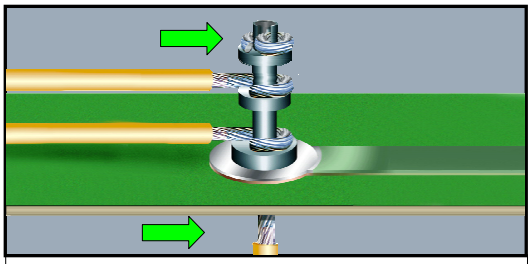
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.2], [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
TURRET TERMINAL

Conductors have been mechanically secured to the terminal with a minimum of 180° wraps. Multiple conductors may be installed in a single slot, if wrapped to the post without overlap.

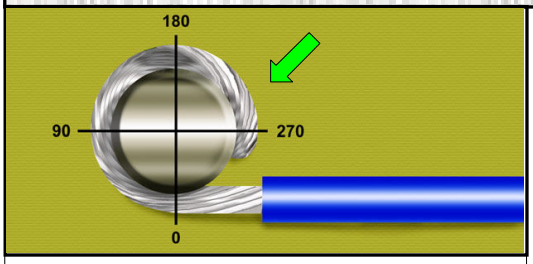
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
TURRET TERMINALS
BOTTOM ROUTE

The uninsulated conductor end shall enter the terminal from the bottom, be brought through the side slot at the top, and wrapped as required for a side route termination.

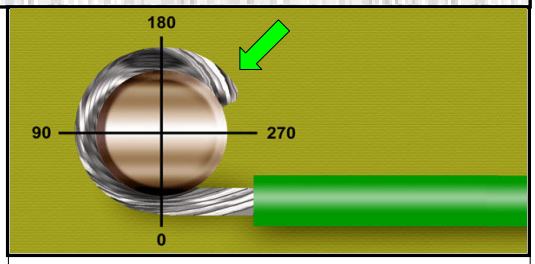
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.2]



MANDATORY
TURRET TERMINAL WRAP
CONDUCTOR SIZES ≤ AWG 26

Conductor sizes AWG 26 and smaller shall be wrapped a minimum of ½ turn (180°), but less than one (1) full turn (360°) around the post.

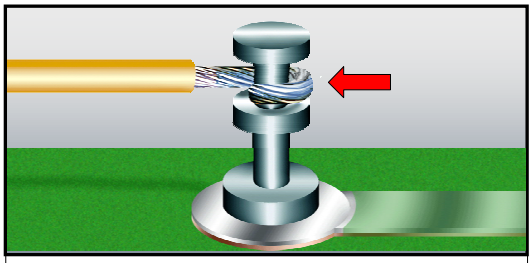
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.1.b]



MANDATORY
TURRET TERMINAL WRAP
CONDUCTOR SIZES > AWG 26

Conductor sizes larger than AWG 26 shall be wrapped a minimum of ½ turn (180°), to a maximum of ¾ turn (270°) around the post.

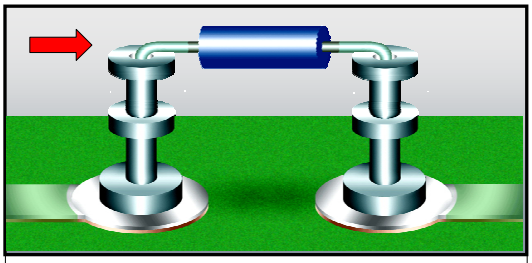
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
TURRET TERMINALS
IMPROPER WRAP

Conductors and part leads shall be mounted as close to the terminal base, as allowed by the insulation or body shape, and shall be in full contact with the terminal and each other.

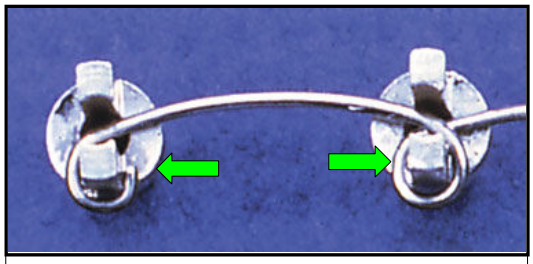
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1], [13.6.2.a.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
TURRET TERMINALS
TOP MOUNTING

Components shall be mounted parallel and in contact with the mounting surface, unless specified otherwise in the engineering documentation.

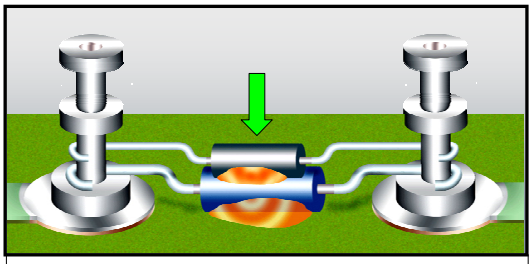
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.3.1], [13.6.2.a.5]



SPECIAL APPLICATIONS
CONTINUOUS RUN CONNECTIONS
BIFURCATED TERMINALS

The wire shall pass between each set of terminal posts, contact each terminal base, and exhibit stress relief. The wire ends shall be attached to the first and last terminal with a 90° to 180° wrap.

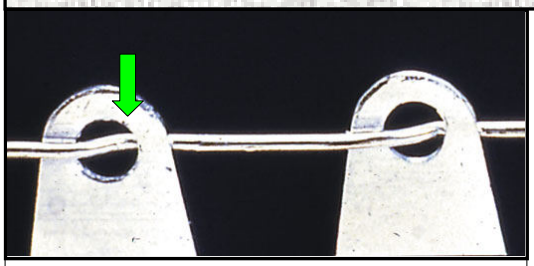
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.3.4]



SPECIAL APPLICATIONS
PIGGYBACKED / STACKED COMPONENTS

Multiple discrete components may be terminated in a piggybacked / stacked configuration, with the largest component mounted parallel to and in contact with the mounting surface. All components shall be stress-relieved and staked.

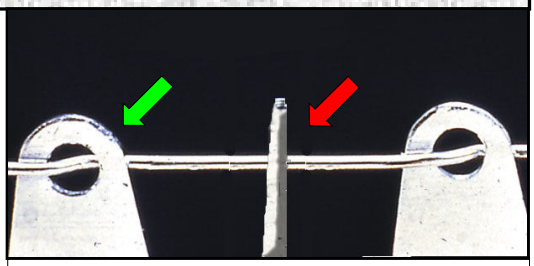
Best Workmanship Practice



SPECIAL APPLICATIONS
CONTINUOUS RUN CONNECTIONS
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINALS

The wire shall pass through each terminal eye, contacting both sides of each terminal, exhibit stress relief, and shall be terminated to the first and last terminal with a 90° to 180° wrap.

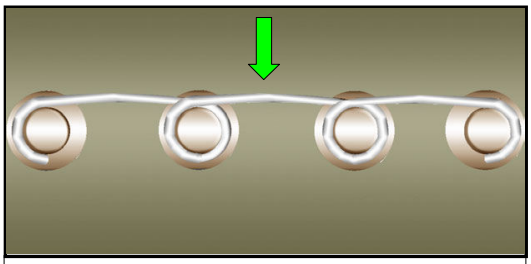
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTINUOUS RUN CONNECTIONS
PIERCED / PERFORATED TERMINALS

The wire passes through each terminal eye, but does not contact both sides of each terminal.

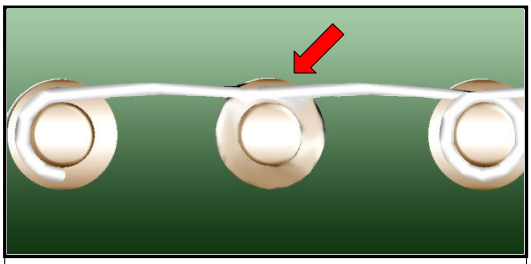
Best Workmanship Practice



SPECIAL APPLICATIONS
CONTINUOUS RUN CONNECTIONS
TURRET TERMINALS

The wire shall wrap around each terminal, contact each terminal base, exhibit stress relief, and be terminated to the first and last terminal with a 180° to 270° wrap (depending on wire gauge).

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.3]

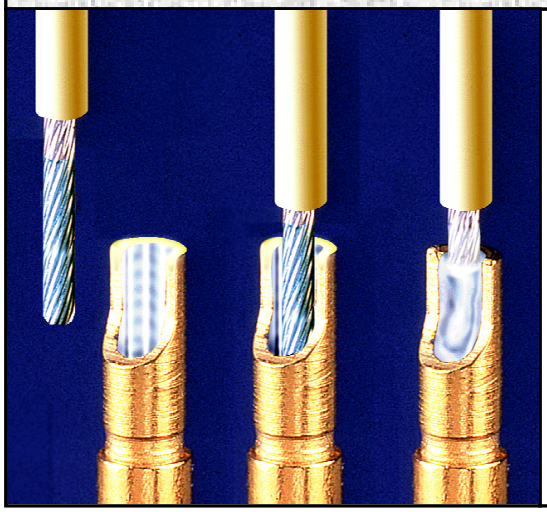


UNACCEPTABLE
CONTINUOUS RUN CONNECTIONS
TURRET TERMINALS

The wire does not wrap 360° around each inner terminal or exhibit sufficient stress relief.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.2.3]

THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
SOLDER CUPS

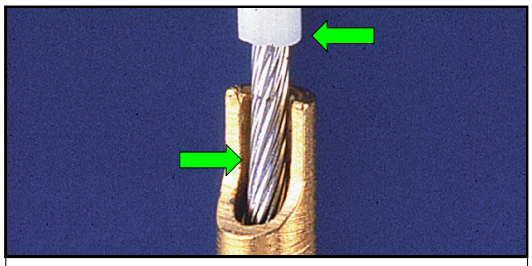


SOLDER CUPS

Solder cup terminals are primarily designed for the in-line solder termination of conductors. This style of terminal is principally designed as a precision-machined pin for insertion into connector bodies.

Variations include connectors in which the solder cup pin is captive in the connector body (i.e.: hermetic connectors), or printed wiring board mounted terminals designed for discrete wire terminations.

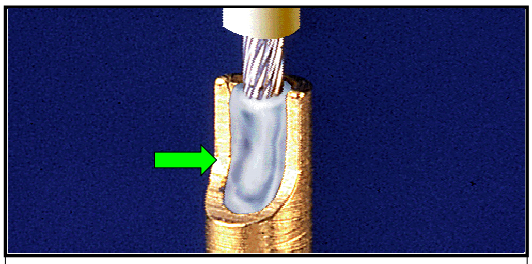
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The wire has been inserted straight into the cup, is in contact the back wall for the full depth of the cup, and bottoms in the cup. The assembly exhibits proper insulation gap and the cup interior has been pretinned.

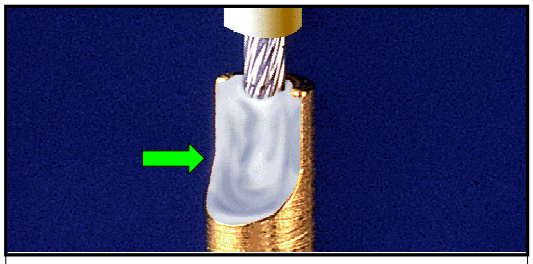
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.6]



PREFERRED
COMPLETED ASSEMBLY

The solder shall form a fillet between the conductor and the cup entry slot, and shall follow the contour of the cup opening.

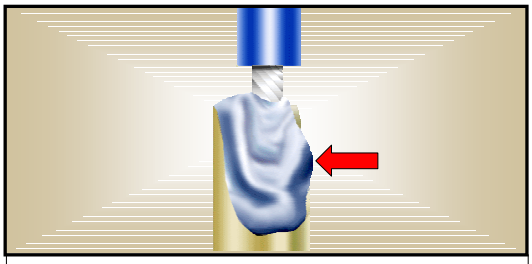
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM SOLDER

The solder quantity is the maximum acceptable, but does not spill over (exceed the diameter of the cup), or exhibit a convex profile.

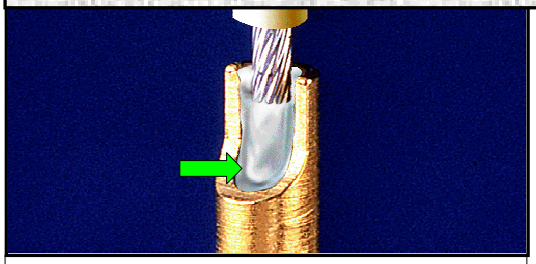
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder does follow the contour of the cup opening and spills over (exceeds the diameter of the cup) with a convex profile.

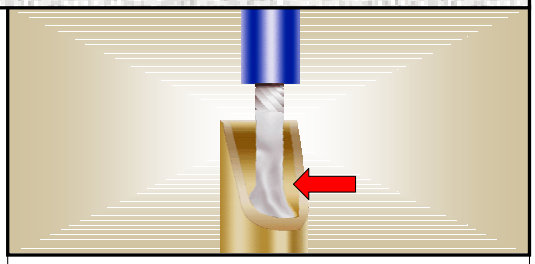
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.a], [13.6.2.b.6]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER

The solder quantity is sufficient to follow the contour of the cup opening. The termination is fully wetted with complete, slightly concave, fillets between the wire and the cup wall. Solder fill is at least 75%.

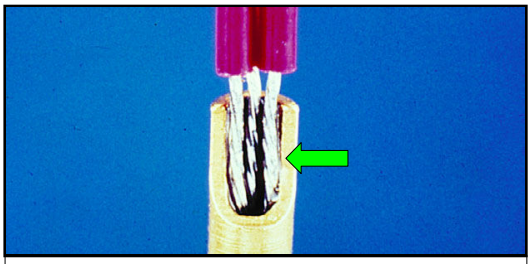
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER QUANTITY

The solder quantity is insufficient to follow the contour of the cup opening. The termination is fully wetted, but exhibits incomplete fillets along the conductor. Solder surface is not visible in bottom of cup.

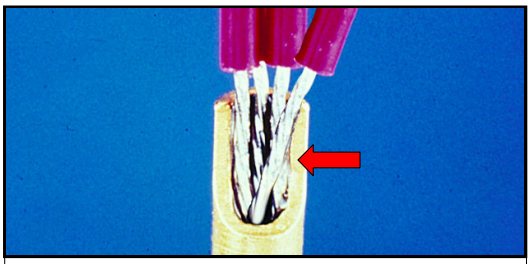
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.a], [13.6.2.b.7]



ACCEPTABLE
MULTIPLE TERMINATIONS

The maximum number of conductors that can be inserted into the cup is limited to those that can be in contact with the full height of the back wall of the cup. All wires shall exhibit proper insulation gaps, but do not need to exhibit equal gaps.

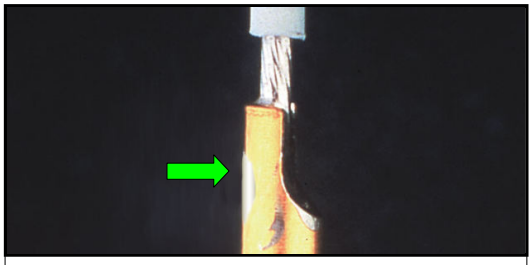
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE CONDUCTORS

The number of conductors inserted exceeds the number that can be in contact with the full height of the back wall of the cup.

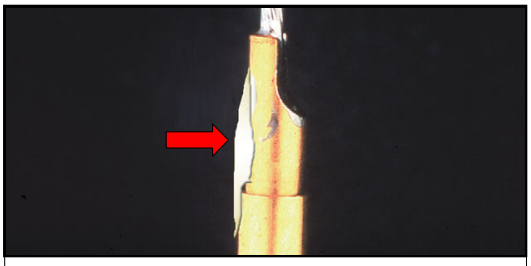
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.6]



ACCEPTABLE
SPILLAGE

Solder along the outside of the cup (spillage) is acceptable, provided the solder deposit approximates tinning and does not interfere with the form, fit, or function of the connector.

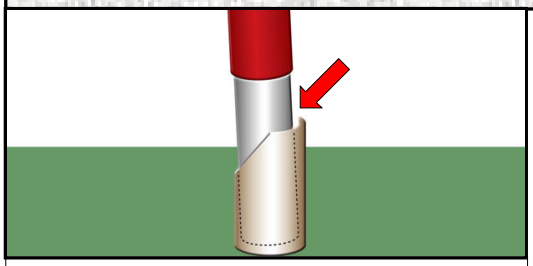
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
SPILLAGE

The solder deposit interferes with the form, fit, or function of the connector.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.2.3.b], [13.6.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER INSTALLATION

The wire has been inserted for the full depth, but is not in contact with the back wall of the cup.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.6], [13.6.2.a.5]

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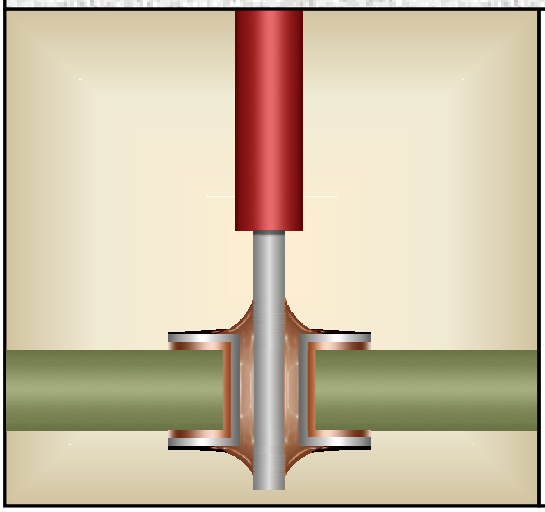
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
DISCRETE WIRES

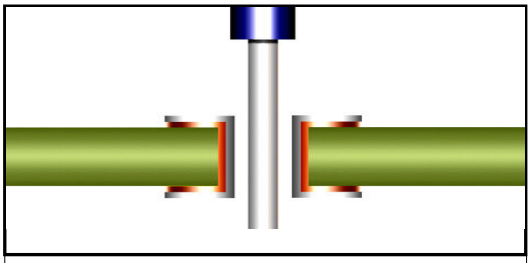


DISCRETE WIRES

Designs often require the termination of discrete conductors directly to the printed wiring board, rather than to terminal posts or through a connector. Terminations are typically through-hole, but lap terminations are also possible.

All discrete wires are considered to be components - with the same bending, soldering, and stress relief requirements seen for other discrete axial / radial devices.

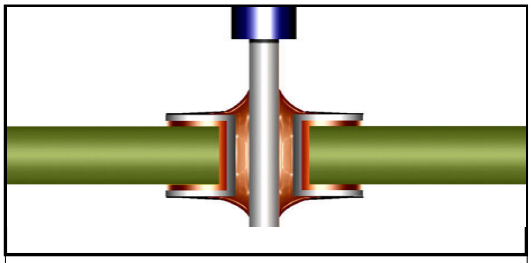
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
THROUGH-HOLE TERMINATION
INTERIM ASSEMBLY

The conductor enters the hole, perpendicular to the board surface, and exhibits proper insulation clearance and lead protrusion. The wire end may be clinched to aid assembly.

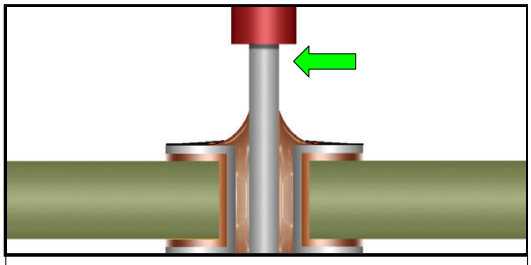
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4]



PREFERRED
THROUGH-HOLE TERMINATION
FINAL ASSEMBLY

The termination exhibits proper insulation clearance and lead protrusion. The termination is fully wetted, with complete fillet formation on both sides of the board.

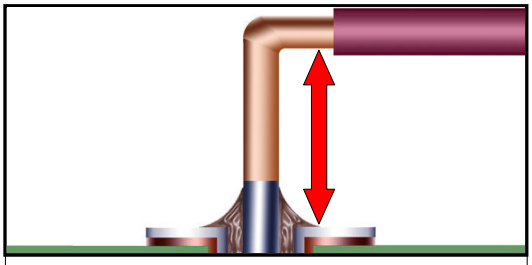
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.4]



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION GAP

The insulation gap (referenced from the first point of contact of the conductor to the terminal) shall be less than two (2) wire diameters, but shall not be imbedded in the solder joint. The wire contour shall be visible at the end of the insulation.

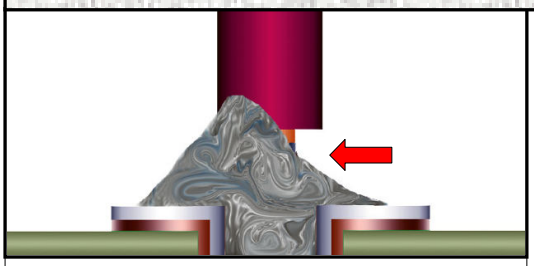
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1], [9.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE INSULATION GAP

The insulation gap exceeds the maximum of two (2) insulated wire diameters, and may present a shorting or birdcaging potential.

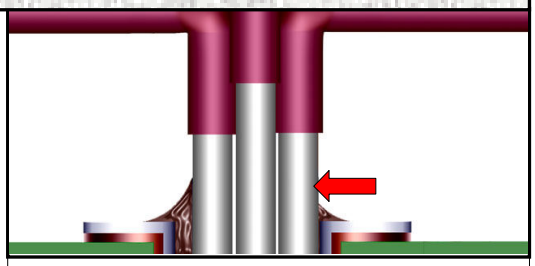
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1], [13.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT INSULATION GAP

The insulation is imbedded in the solder joint and the contour of the conductor is not visible.

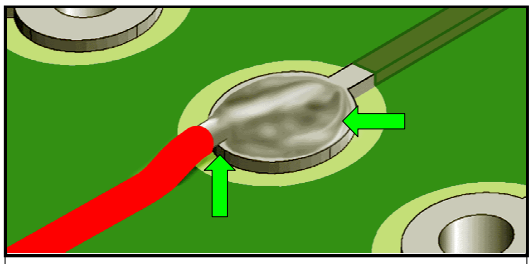
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1], [13.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
MULTIPLE CONDUCTORS

No more than one conductor shall be inserted into any one hole, unless specified on the engineering documentation.

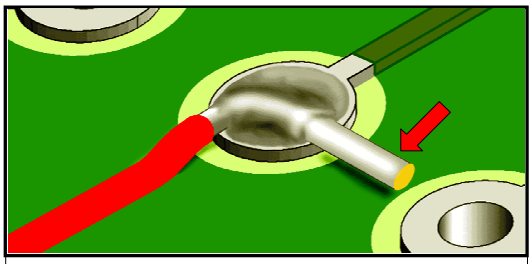
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LAPPED TERMINATION

The termination shall be parallel to the longest dimension of the pad, and exhibit a complete solder fillet around all sides of the lead. The conductor shall not exhibit end overhang. A heel fillet is mandatory.

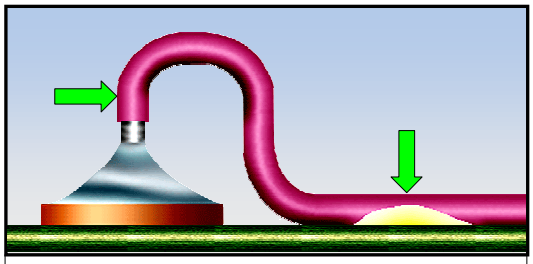
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LAP TERMINATION

The lap termination shall not overhang the land edge and/or violate minimum electrical spacing.

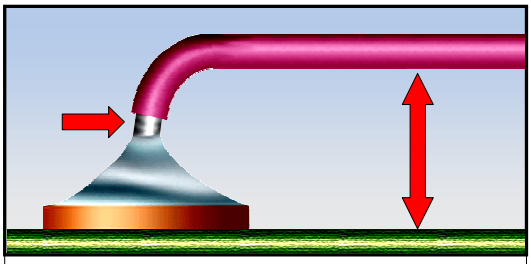
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRAIN RELIEF

Stress relief shall be incorporated, wherever possible, into all leads and conductors terminating in solder connections to provide freedom of movement of part leads or conductors between points of constraint.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.1], [8.1.5]

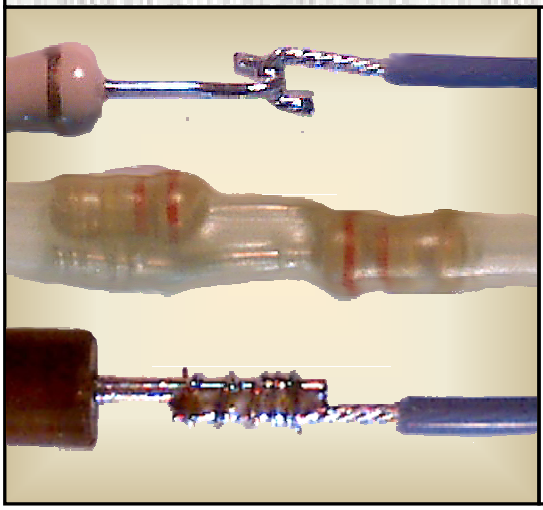


UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

The termination does not exhibit an acceptable strain relief bend and is not properly staked. There is a potential for any pulling stress to transfer to the solder joint (note the termination is lightly bent) and eventual fracture fatigue.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.1], [13.6.2.a.10]

THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
SERVICE LEAD SPLICES



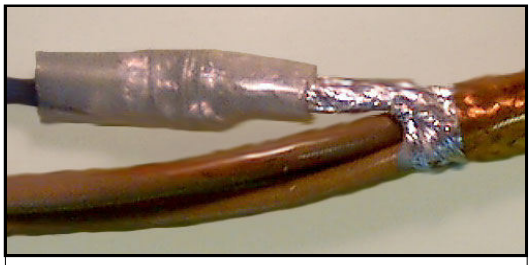
SERVICE LEAD SPLICES

Design applications may require the termination of a discrete leaded component in a non-standard configuration, where the components are not terminated in the manner originally designed for that package type, the component's leads are being used as terminals, and/or where the termination method is not addressed in the NASA standards.

These terminations impose stress relief requirements on the solder joint and the component lead seals that must be addressed to ensure reliable operation.

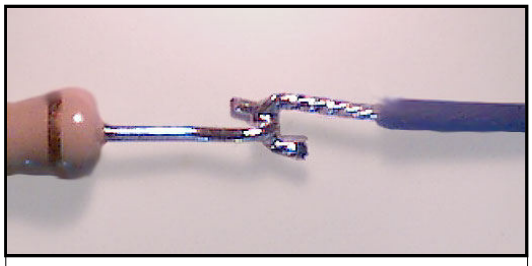
PREFERRED
END SPLICE

The end splice is a version of the lash splice, where the conductor ends are laid side by side, wrapped, soldered, and then insulated with shrink tubing. For inline configurations, the splice section may be bent back against the larger conductor(s) and sleeved for strain-relief.



PREFERRED
GROUND LEAD / DRAIN WIRE SPLICE

The lash splice can be used to attach a ground lead / drain wire to a shielded cable in instances where a solder sleeve is impractical or too bulky.
Assembly rating: Easy / Moderate

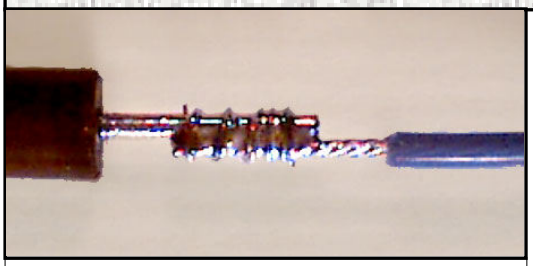


PREFERRED
HOOK SPLICE

This splice is typically used to terminate discrete, leaded components in "daisy-chain" configurations. The termination has good tensile properties, but is prone to solder joint fatigue if repeatedly flexed.
Assembly rating: Easy

PREFERRED
LAP SPLICE

A lap splice is a non-structural splice, where the component lead end and the conductor end are soldered in parallel, overlapping contact to each other. The splice may be simple or complex, and is more compact than a solder sleeve.
Assembly rating: Easy

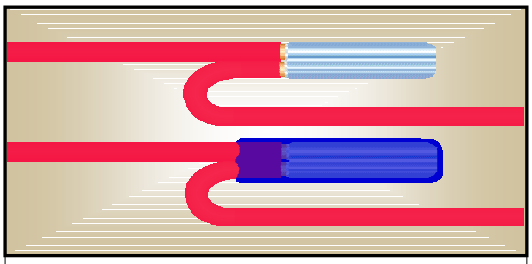


PREFERRED
LASH SPLICE

A lash splice is a structural splice, consisting of a lap splice with a single strand overlash winding mechanically binding the lead and conductor together. The splice may be simple or complex, and is more compact than a solder sleeve.
Assembly rating: Easy / Moderate

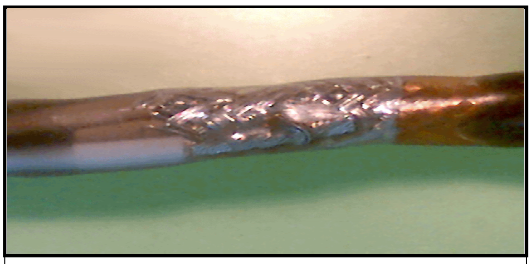
PREFERRED
LINEMAN / WESTERN UNION SPLICE

This splice is best suited for the termination of wire and cable, but can be used for the termination of discrete component leads. The splice is suitable for situations where the termination may be subjected to tensile loading.
Assembly rating: Difficult



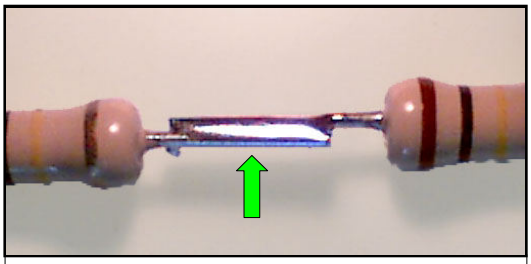
PREFERRED
MAGNET WIRE SPLICE

After stripping and preparing for soldering, the ends of the wires shall be twisted together a minimum of three turns in an end slice configuration, soldered, and insulated. The splice section shall be bent back against the larger conductor and strain-relieved.



PREFERRED
SOLDER SLEEVES

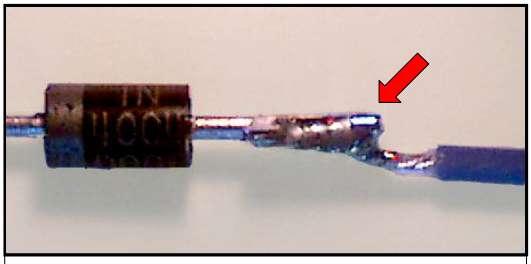
Originally developed for the termination of cable shield drain wires, solder sleeves produce a one-step, insulated, and sealed splice. Solder sleeves are typically larger than that achievable with a lap or lash splice.



ACCEPTABLE
ANGULAR ALIGNMENT (LAP / LASH)

Angular misalignment of less than 2 lead diameters (measured at the conductor ends of the splice section) is allowable, provided there are no protruding or sharp edges.

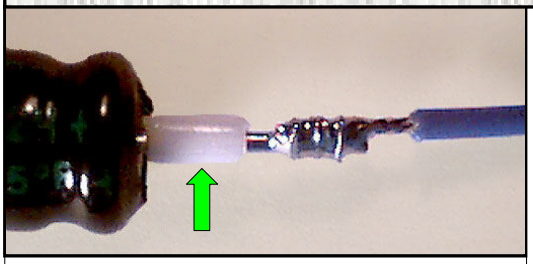
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
LEAD / CONDUCTOR MISALIGNMENT

Angular misalignment in excess of 2 lead diameters (measured at the conductor ends of the splice section) produces a mechanically weak solder joint, with protruding ends or sharp edges.

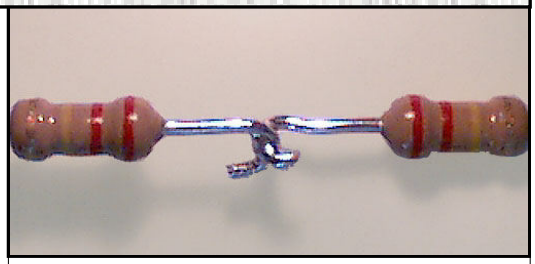
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
COMPONENT LEAD INSULATION

The component lead shall be sleeved with tubing, between the lead seal / weld bead to within 2 lead diameters of the solder joint (if applicable).

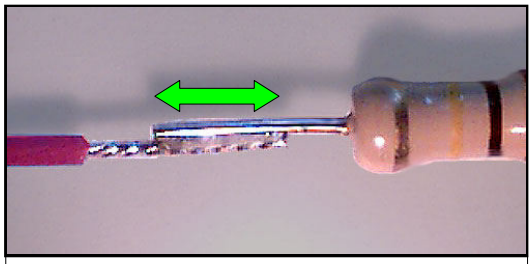
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
DAISY-CHAIN

The components exhibit acceptable solder terminations and are sleeved to provide strain relief.

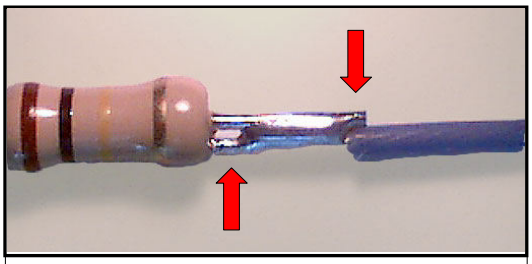
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
CONDUCTOR OVERLAP (LAP / LASH)

The conductors in the splice section shall be in parallel, overlapping contact to each other. The soldered section shall be a minimum of 5 – 8 mm (0.2 – 0.3 in.) in length.

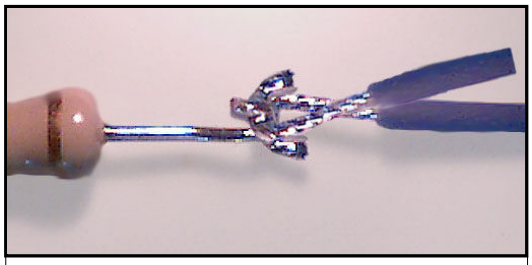
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE OVERLAP

The soldered section shall be a minimum of 5 – 8 mm (0.2 – 0.3 in.) in length, but should not contact the insulation jacket(s) or the lead seal / weld bead. Excessive overlap increases stress on the component lead and body seal / weld bead.

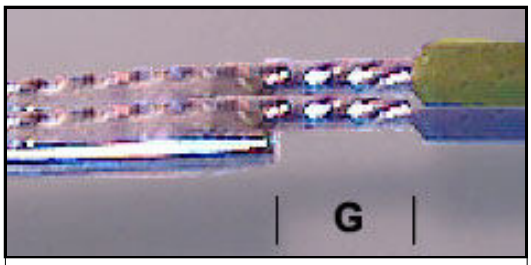
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
HOOK SPLICE ORIENTATION

The conductor and the component lead shall be aligned approximately 90° to, and in contact with, each other. In multiple conductor configurations, the direction of each additional conductor wrap shall be alternated, and shall not overlap.

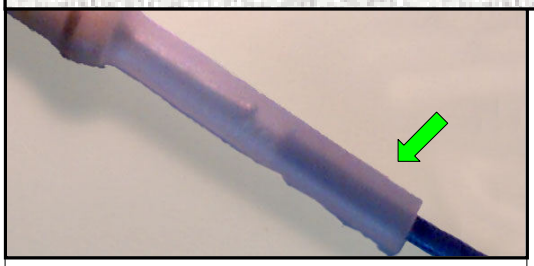
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION GAP

The conductor(s) shall exhibit proper insulation spacing. In multiple conductor configurations, the conductor insulation gaps shall be approximately equal.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1], [9.1.2]
NASA-STD-8739.4 [10.1.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION SLEEVING APPLICATION

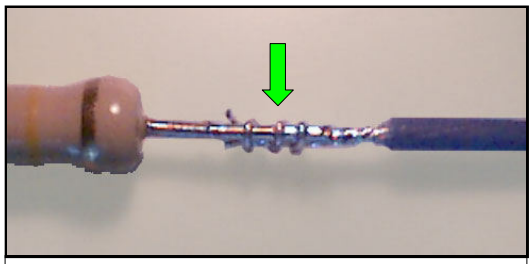
The completed solder joint shall be over-sleeved with transparent / translucent heat shrink tubing of sufficient length to cover the solder joint and extend over the insulation of each conductor a minimum of 5 mm (0.20 in.).

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED TERMINATION

The shrink tubing has been improperly installed, resulting in exposure of the conductive surface. The tubing should be of sufficient length to cover the solder joint and extend over the insulation of each conductor a minimum of 5 mm (0.20 in.).

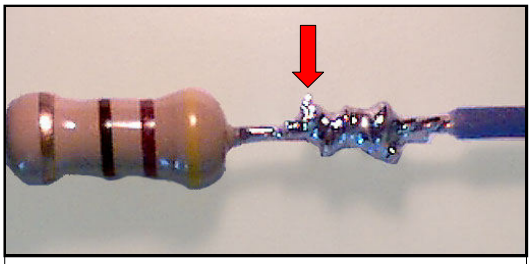
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LASH WINDING

The lash shall consist of a tinned, solid 34 AWG (or smaller) conductor, tightly wrapped in an open spiral of approximately 4-6 complete, non-overlapping turns, approximately centered over the splice. Lash ends shall be trimmed flush.

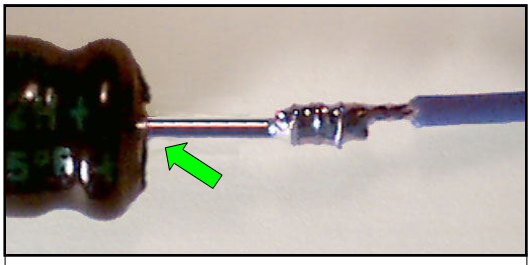
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LASH / WRAP

The lash has been completed with a conductor the same gage as the mated conductors, resulting in an insufficient number of wraps to achieve a secure mechanical termination.

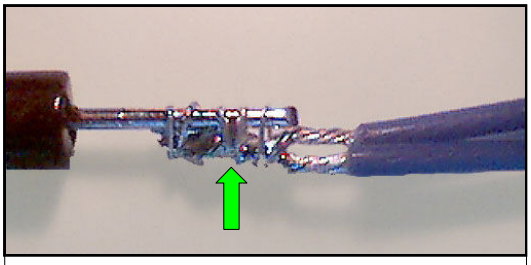
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
LEAD SEAL / WELD BEAD SPACING

The component end of the solder joint shall not be closer than 2 lead diameters or 0.50 mm (0.020 in.), whichever is larger, from the lead seal / weld bead.

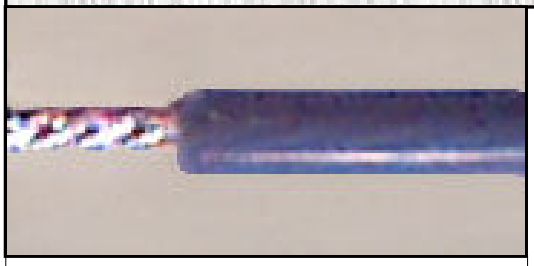
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MULTIPLE / COMPLEX CONFIGURATIONS

In multiple conductor configurations, the conductor ends may be twisted together, with the twisted section parallel to, and in contact with, the component lead.

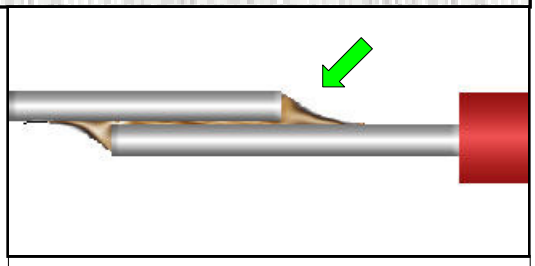
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SERVICE LEAD

The service lead conductor(s) shall be insulated stranded wire, unless otherwise specified in the engineering documentation.

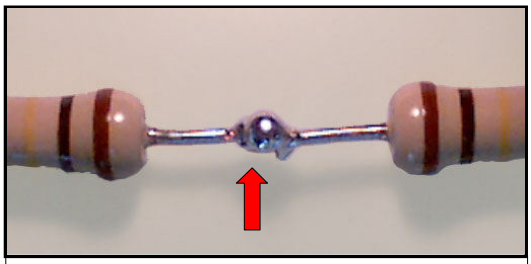
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER FILLET

The solder joint shall comply with all the basic requirements of NASA-STD-8739.3 for a solder termination. The termination shall be fully wetted, with a smooth, shiny, concave fillet. The contour of the lead and conductor shall be discernable.

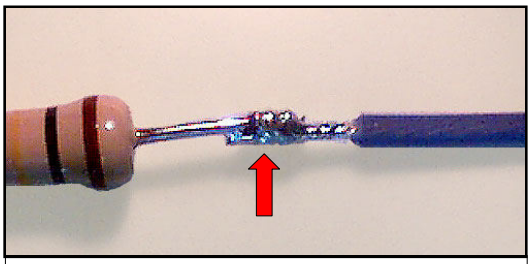
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
BUTT SOLDER JOINT

Butt solder terminations shall not be used.

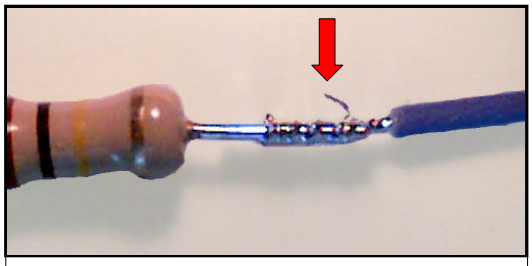
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT OVERLAP

The soldered section shall be a minimum of 5 – 8 mm (0.2 – 0.3 in.) in length to ensure the formation of a proper solder fillet, especially if a lap termination is used.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PROTRUDING LASH END

The end of the lash winding has not been properly trimmed, creating a potential short circuit problem.

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICE LOCATED IN FLEXURE ZONE

The termination shall not be located in a flexure zone.

Best Workmanship Practice

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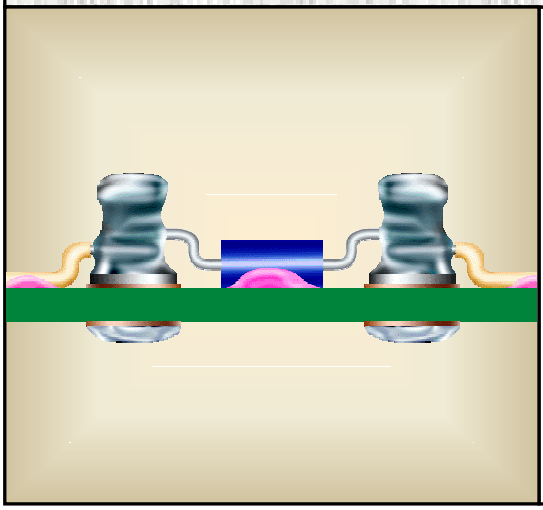
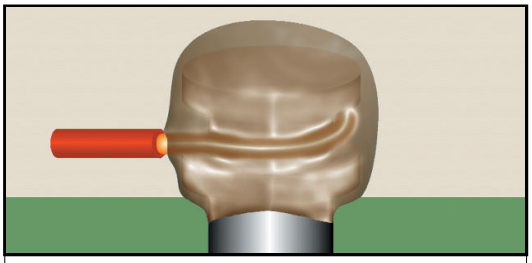
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
HIGH-VOLTAGE TERMINATIONS



HIGH VOLTAGE TERMINATIONS

High-voltage terminations, where coronal suppression is necessary, will require special design. All aspects of the soldered joints shall be covered by smooth fillets, free of discontinuities or severe change in surface contour (i.e.: sharp edges, points, angles, etc.).

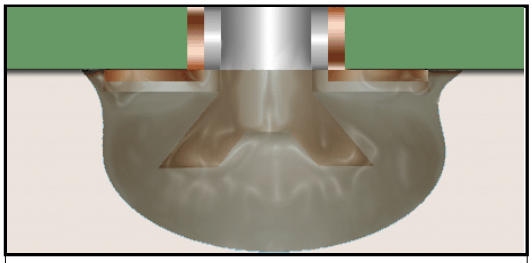
See Section 6.01 “Through-Hole Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The solder connection has a completely rounded, continuous, and smooth profile. No evidence of sharp edges, points, icicles, inclusions (foreign material), or wire strands. Insulation clearance is as close to the solder connection as possible without embedment.

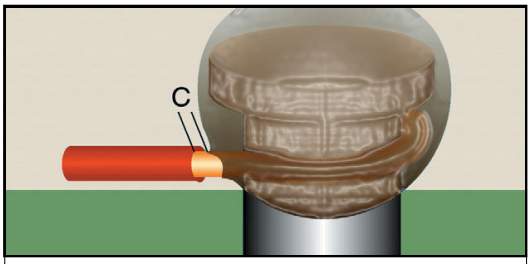
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.3]



PREFERRED
FLARED FLANGE (TERMINAL)

All edges of the terminal flange are completely covered with a continuous, smooth layer of solder to form a solder ball. The balled connection does not exceed specified height requirements.

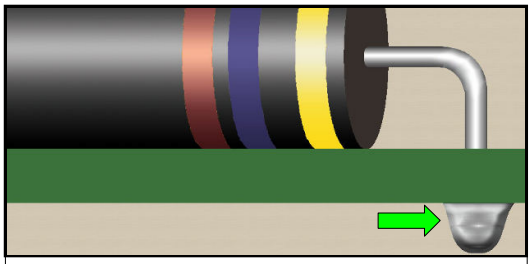
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
INSULATION CLEARANCE

The insulation gap is minimal, with the insulation as close to the solder connection as practical without embedment or damage.

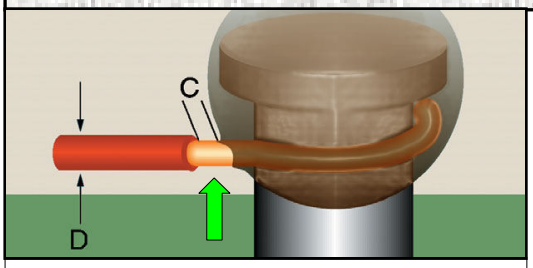
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1]



PREFERRED
THROUGH HOLE TERMINATION

All sharp edges of the component lead end are completely covered with a continuous, smooth, rounded layer of solder to form a solder ball. The balled connection does not exceed specified height requirements.

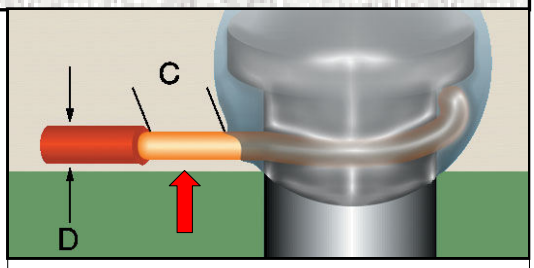
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION CLEARANCE (C)
(MAXIMUM)

The insulation gap (C) is less than two insulated wire diameters (D).

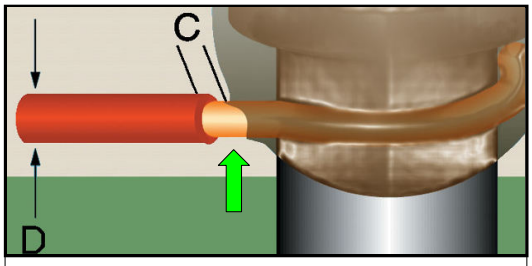
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER INSULATION CLEARANCE (C)

The insulation gap (C) is greater than two insulated wire diameters, which may result in coronal formation and short circuits.

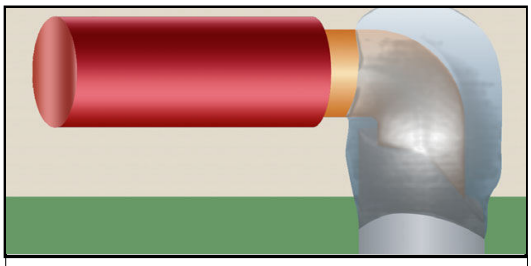
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.2], [13.6.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
INSULATION CLEARANCE (C)
(MINIMUM)

The insulation gap (C) is less than one insulated wire diameter (D), but is not embedded in the solder joint.

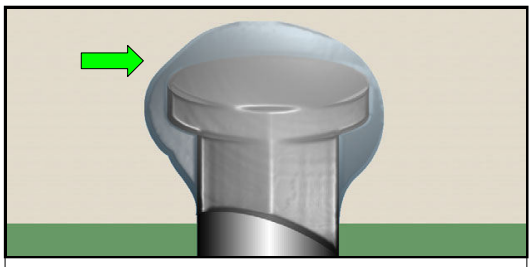
NASA-STD-8739.3 [9.1.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER CUP TERMINATIONS

The connection has an egg-shaped, spherical, or oval profile following the contour of the terminal and wire wrap. No evidence of sharp edges, points, icicles, inclusions (foreign material), or wire strands. Insulation clearance is acceptable.

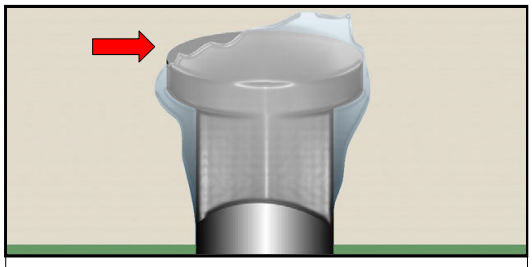
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.3]



ACCEPTABLE
UNUSED TERMINAL

All sharp edges of the terminal are completely covered with a smooth, continuous ball of solder.

Best Workmanship Practice

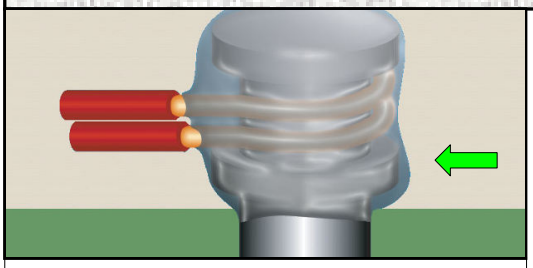


UNACCEPTABLE
UNUSED TERMINAL
NO SOLDER / PARTIAL SOLDER

All sharp edges of the terminal shall be completely covered with a smooth, continuous ball of solder.

Best Workmanship Practice

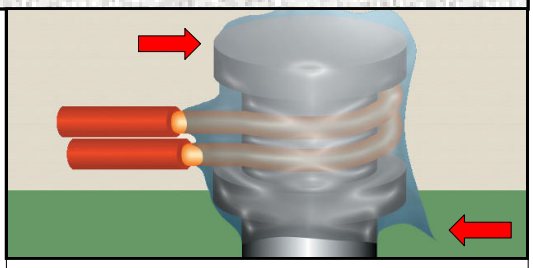
THROUGH-HOLE SOLDERING
HIGH-VOLTAGE TERMINATIONS (cont.)



ACCEPTABLE
TERMINALS / WIRE LEAD

The connection has an egg-shaped, spherical, or oval profile that follows the contour of the terminal and wire wrap. No evidence of sharp edges, points, icicles, inclusions (foreign material), or wire strands. Insulation clearance is acceptable.

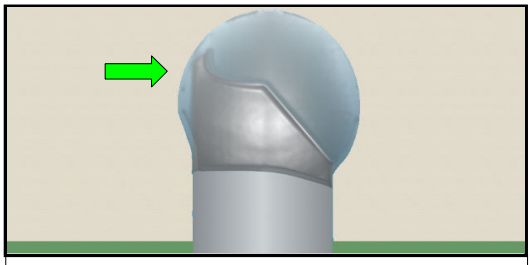
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
SHARP EDGES

The solder follows the contour of the terminal and wrap, BUT there is evidence of the sharp edge of the terminal protruding through the solder surface.

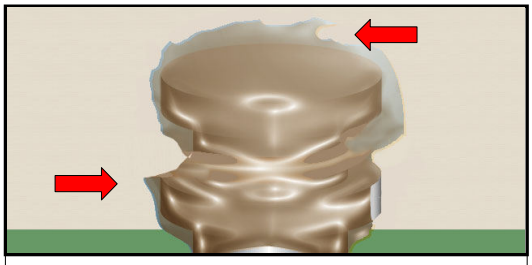
NASA-STD-8739.3 [10.3]



ACCEPTABLE
UNUSED SOLDER CUPS

The solder connection has an egg-shaped, spherical, or oval profile. No evidence of sharp edges, points, icicles, inclusions (foreign material), or wire strands.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
UNUSED TERMINAL, SHARP EDGES

The solder is continuous, BUT there is evidence of solder peaks, icicles, or sharp turret edges protruding.

Best Workmanship Practice

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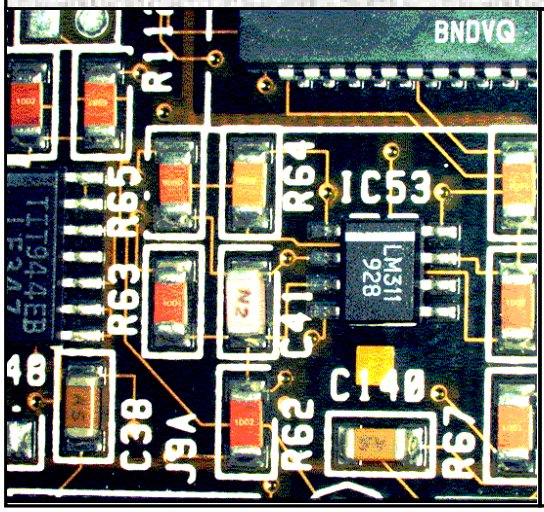
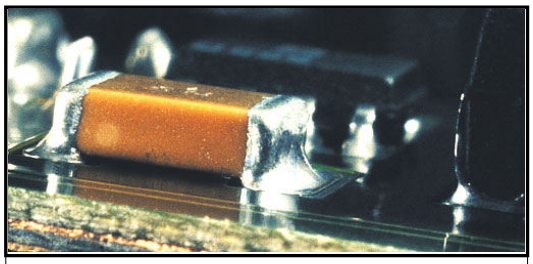
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.



SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

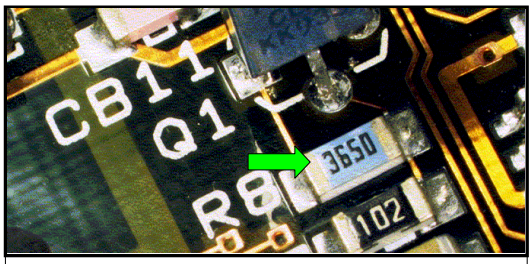
Surface mount technology (SMT) is used to mount electronic components on the metallized surface of printed wiring boards (PWB) or substrates. SMT makes it possible to mount components on one or both sides of the printed wiring assembly (PWA), producing more reliable electronic assemblies at greatly reduced weight, volume, and cost.



PREFERRED

The solder joint surface is smooth, nonporous, undisturbed, with a finish varying from satin to bright. The fillet completely wets all elements to the periphery of the connection and is concave.

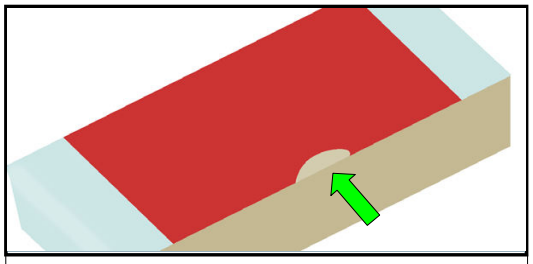
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1]



PREFERRED

Part markings are visible and oriented uniformly.

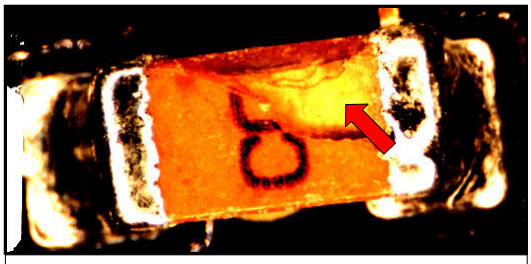
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.a], [12.7.1.b], [12.8.1.f]



ACCEPTABLE
CHIP-OUTS (NICKS)

Chip-outs (nicks) of the top surface (adhesive coating), less than 0.25mm from the component edge are acceptable. Chips in the component body, element area, or termination area are unacceptable.

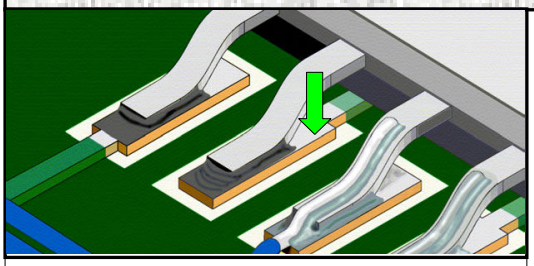
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.b], [8.8.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHIP-OUTS (NICKS)

The use of chip-scale parts with chips in the component body or termination area, and any resistive elements with chip outs, is prohibited.

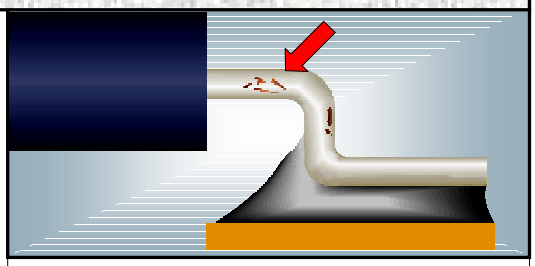
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.3]



ACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Exposed base metal on the vertical edges of circuit traces, lands, and pads is acceptable.

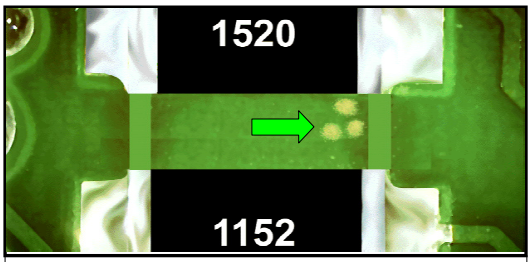
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED BASE METAL

Exposed base metal is prohibited, except for the vertical edges of circuit traces, lands, and pads.

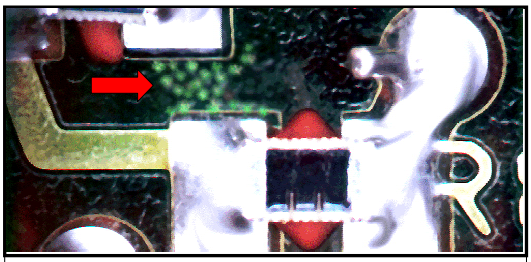
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.5]



ACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Whitish, discrete spots or crosses below the laminate surface - usually induced by thermal shock / stress. Measling that bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

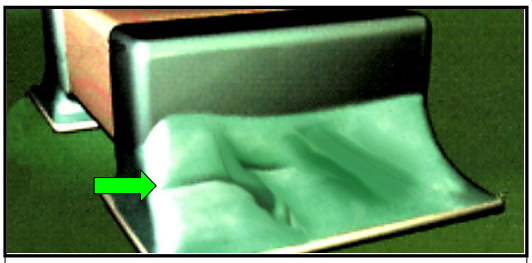
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
MEASLING

Measling that bridges uncommon conductors is unacceptable.

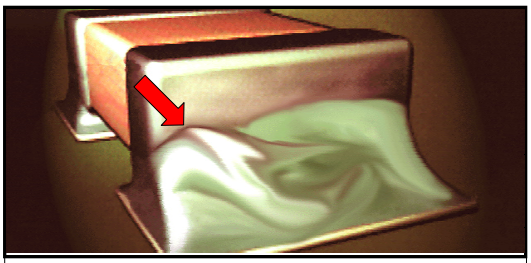
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.3]



ACCEPTABLE
NONUNIFORM / UNEVEN FLOW / REFLOW

A solder filet exhibiting a nonuniform / uneven flow line is acceptable, provided there is evidence of good wetting.

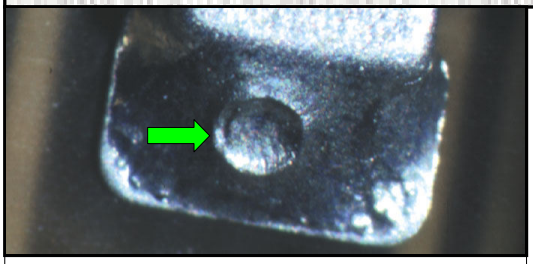
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.g]



UNACCEPTABLE
NONUNIFORM / UNEVEN FLOW / REFLOW

The uneven flow / reflow of solder is typically caused by an inadequate / uneven application of heat. The condition is acceptable if good wetting is evident.

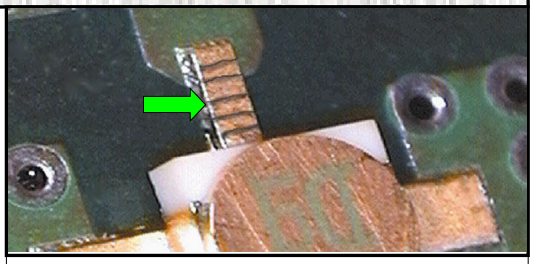
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.g], [12.8.2.b.4]



ACCEPTABLE
PITS

A solder pit is acceptable, provided the bottom of the cavity can be seen from all angles of vision.

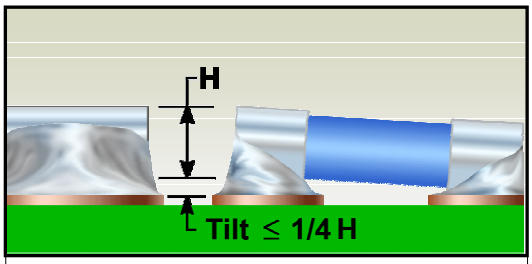
NASA-STD-8739.2 [3.1], [12.8.2.b.5]



ACCEPTABLE
SMOOTH TOOL IMPRESSION MARKS

Smooth tool impression marks (slight cuts, nicks, scratches or scrapes) on the conductor surface, which do not expose base metal or reduce cross-sectional area are acceptable.

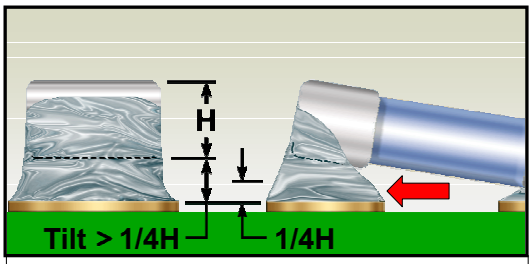
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.4]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

Part tilt shall not exceed 25% of component height (H) or diameter (i.e.: MELFs), and shall not interfere with the proper placement of adjacent parts.

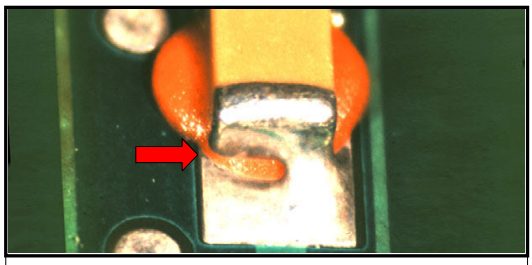
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS TILT

Excessive tilting of a component may impact the long-term reliability and integrity of the solder termination, and may interfere with the proper placement and thermal profile of adjacent parts.

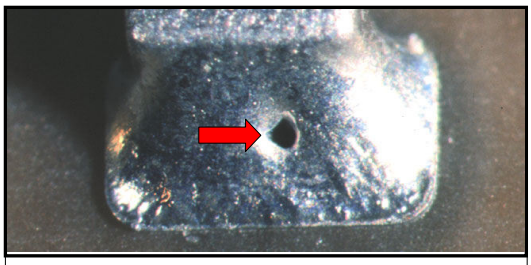
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ADHESIVE INCLUSION

Adhesive material in the solder joint shall be cause for rejection.

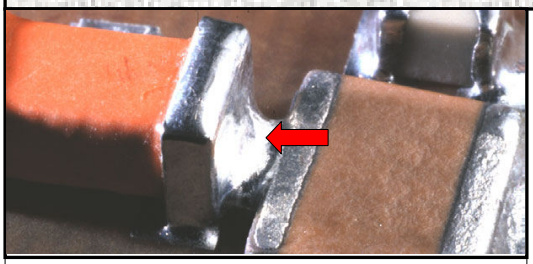
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.10.3], [12.8.2.b.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
BLOWHOLE

Blowholes are typically caused by trapped gases or flux during the formation of the solder fillet, and are unacceptable.

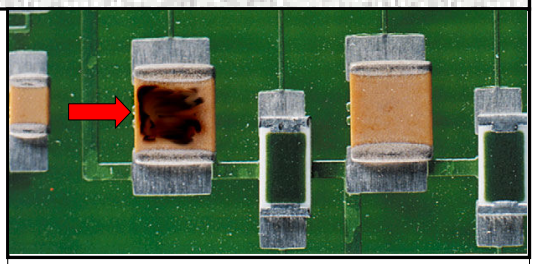
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Bridging is an indicator of poor process controls (i.e.: excess solder, smeared paste, improper placement, incorrect heat).

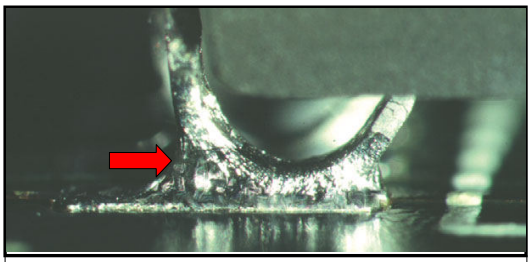
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
CHARRING

Charring of components and/or laminate is an indicator of poor process control (i.e.: excessive heat).

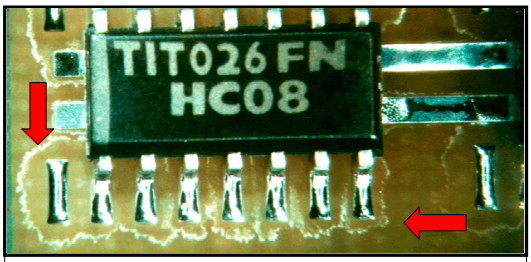
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
COLD SOLDER JOINT

A cold solder joint is an indicator of incorrect process control (i.e.: inadequate heat).

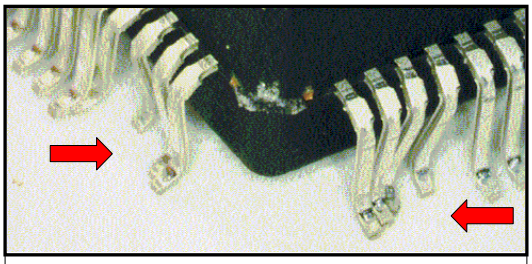
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination is a reliability concern. Residual flux and other contaminants can lead to corrosion and circuit failure.

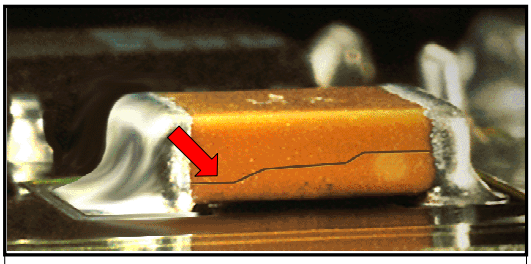
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

Improper coplanarity of leaded parts will result in bridging, shorts, and misalignment. Parts shall be reworked prior to installation.

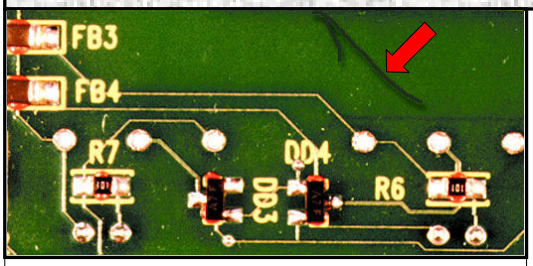
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (COMPONENT)

Cracks (especially in ceramic components) are an indicator of poor process control (i.e.: improper preheat, thermal / mechanical shock, etc.).

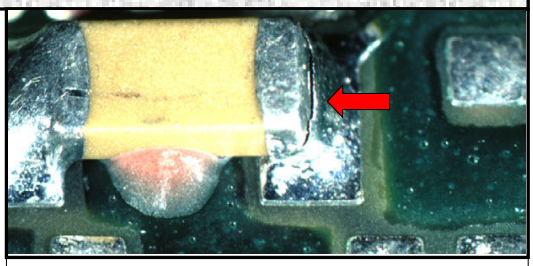
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (LAMINATE)

Cracks in the laminate are a reliability concern and are a cause for rejection.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKS (SOLDER FILLET)

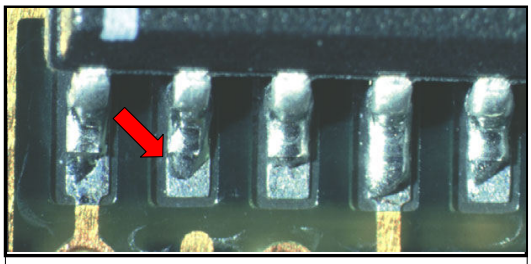
Cracks or fractures in the solder fillet are an indication of mechanical / thermal shock, or temperature coefficient mismatch.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.3]

UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGED PART SEAL

Parts with damaged seals shall not be used.

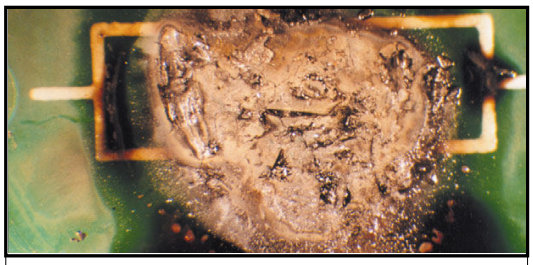
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.7.2.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
DEWETTING

Dewetting is an indicator of poor process control (i.e.: excessive heat dwell following reflow).

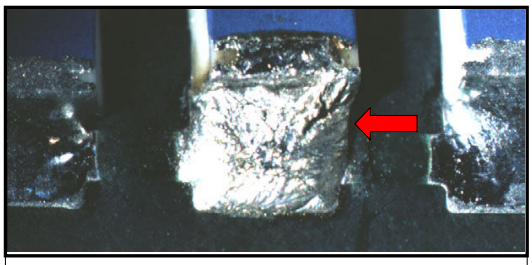
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORED LAMINATE
(BURNS)

Burns that physically damage the laminate surface or the assembly are not allowed. Slight discoloration is allowable.

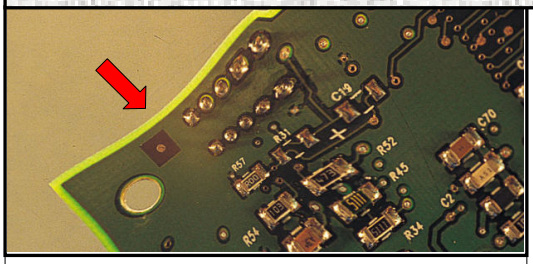
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISTURBED SOLDER

A disturbed solder joint is an indicator of improper process control.

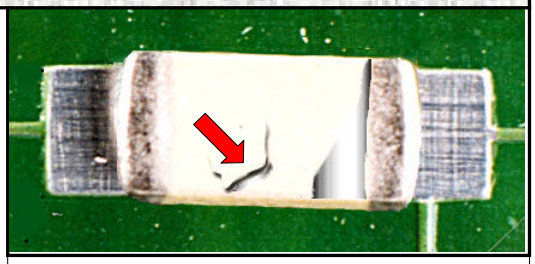
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE BOW / TWIST (PWB)

Excessive bow or twist may inhibit proper mounting and may result in mechanical interference or shorting to adjacent assemblies or chassis.

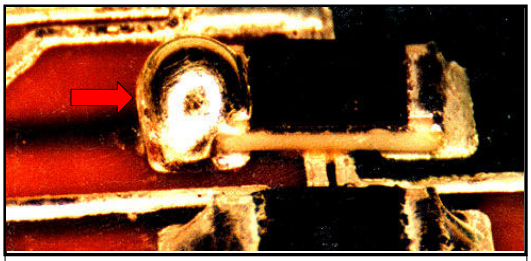
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED DIE / CIRCUIT ELEMENTS

The unprotected exposure of die or circuit elements is not allowed unless specified in the engineering documentation.

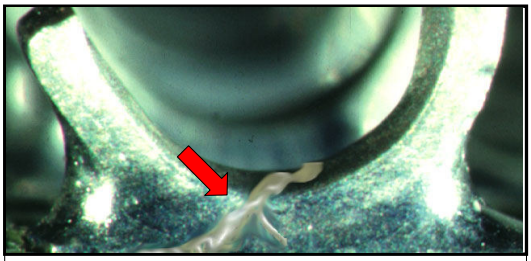
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.8.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle and shall not contact the component body.

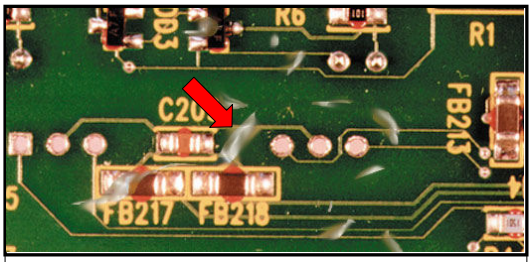
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.12]



UNACCEPTABLE
FLUX RESIDUE

Flux residue indicates improper / incomplete cleaning.

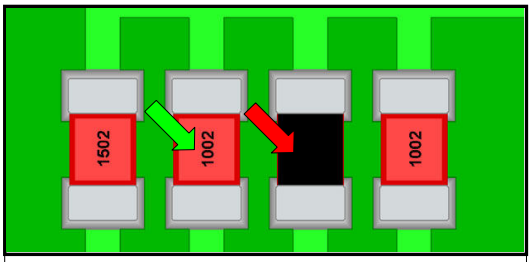
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
FLUX SPLATTER

Flux splatter is an indication of an improper process parameter (heat / moisture).

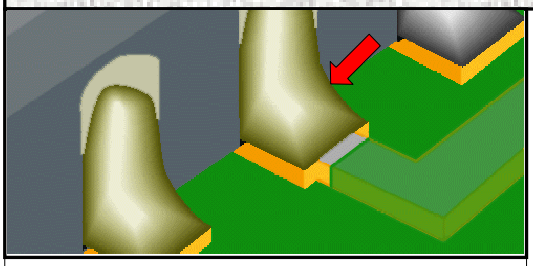
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
GLASS SIDE DOWN

Thick film components shall be mounted with the protective glass film side in the up position.

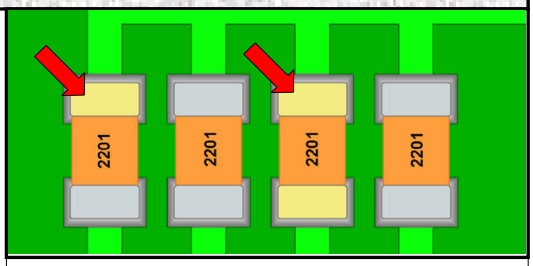
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.8.3], [12.7.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
GOLD INTERMETALLIC

Gold intermetallic can severely embrittle a solder joint.

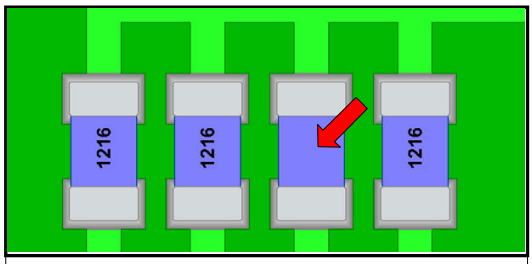
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.22]



UNACCEPTABLE
GOLD PLATING

Gold plated surfaces that will become a part of the finished solder connection shall be tinned prior to soldering to remove the gold plating.

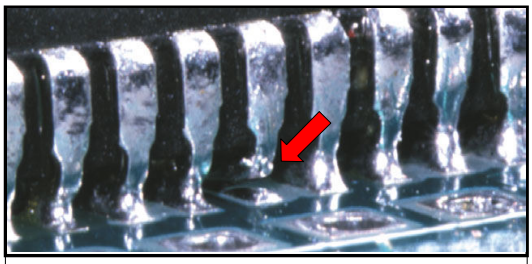
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.2.1.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
IDENTIFICATION MARKS MISSING

Parts shall be mounted with the identification markings visible.

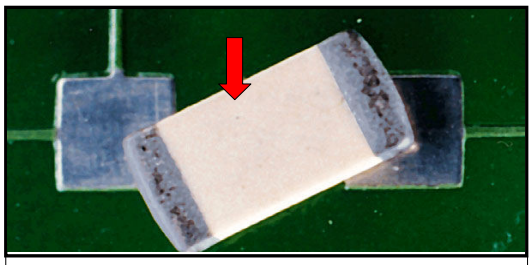
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.a], [12.6.3.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LEAD SPACING

Leads shall not exhibit spacing separation in excess of 0.26mm (0.010 inch) above the solder land.

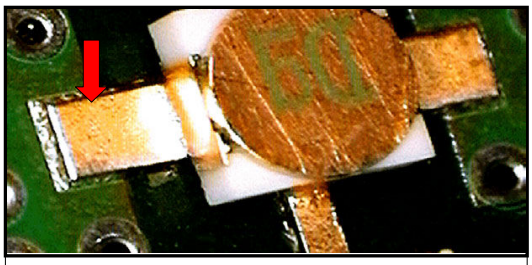
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.10]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER ORIENTATION

Parts shall be mounted parallel to the laminate surface, right side up, and aligned to the lands within design and engineering specifications.

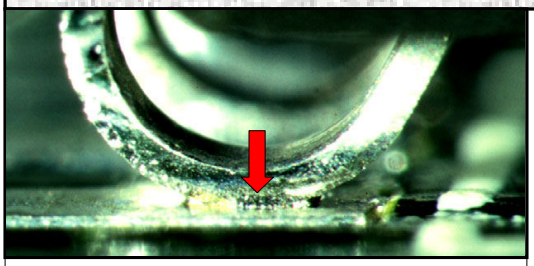
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4], [12.7.1.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER TINNING

Tinned surfaces shall exhibit at least 95% coverage.

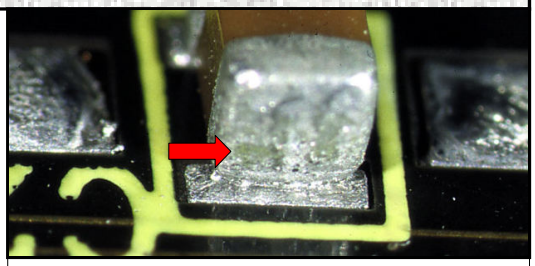
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.2], [12.8.2.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

Insufficient solder is an indicator of improper process control, and may result in reduced reliability. In this example, there is no side or heel fillet.

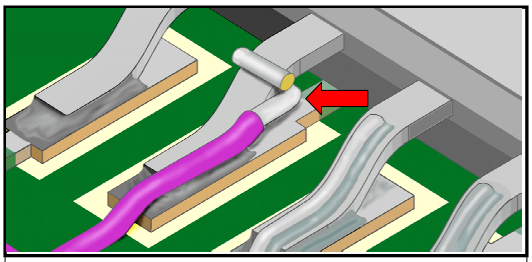
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
LEACHING

Parts exhibiting leaching or loss of metallization in the termination area shall be rejected.

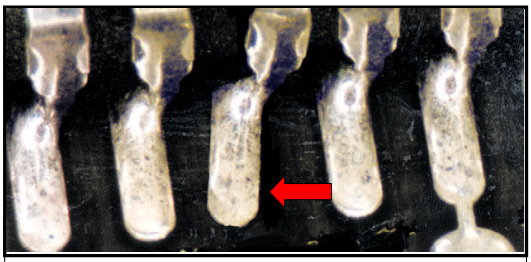
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
LEADS USED AS TERMINALS

Part leads shall not be used as terminals, except when the part lead is used as a terminal.

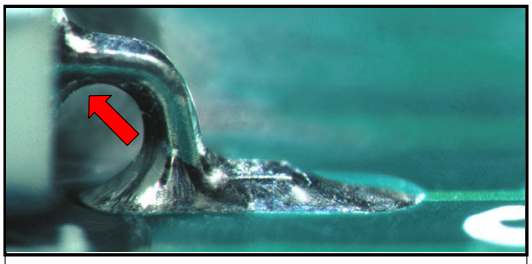
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
LIFTED PAD / TRACE

Termination pads or traces exhibiting separation from the substrate shall be cause for rejection.

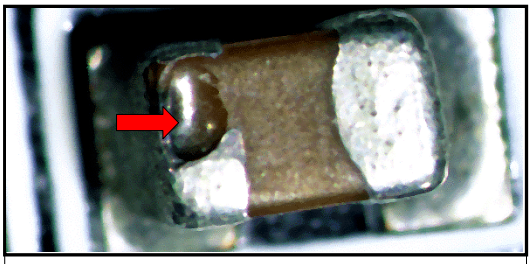
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.1], [12.8.2.c.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
MENISCUS CONTACT

Parts exhibiting contact with, or embedment of, the meniscus and the solder joint, shall be rejected.

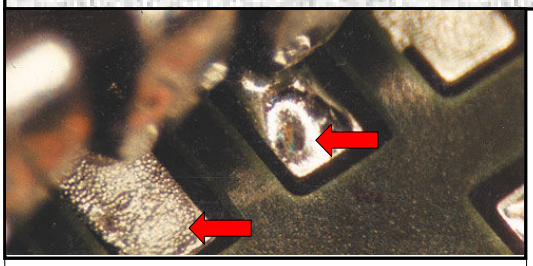
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.12]



UNACCEPTABLE
NICKS

The use of parts with nicks in the component body or termination area is prohibited.

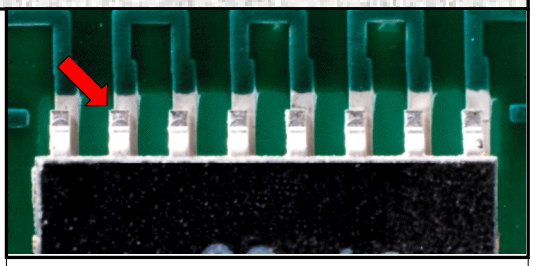
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.3.2], [12.8.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
NO FLOW / REFLOW

The lack of proper flow / reflow of solder paste / preforms is an indicator of poor process control or layout design (i.e.: inadequate heat, shadowing).

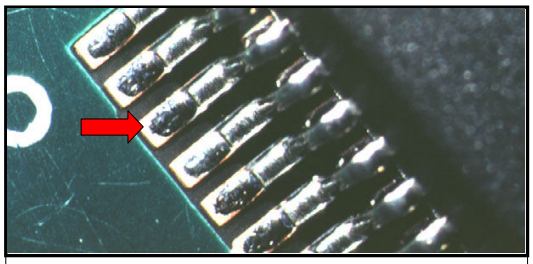
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
NO SOLDER

The lack of solder is an indicator of poor process control.

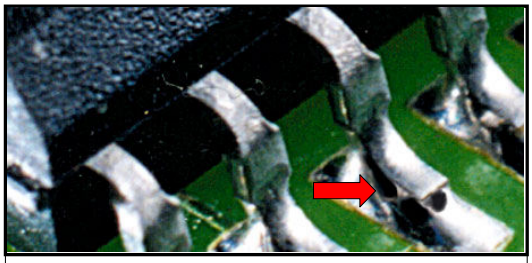
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.4], [12.8.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING

Nonwetting is an indicator of poor solderability or contamination.

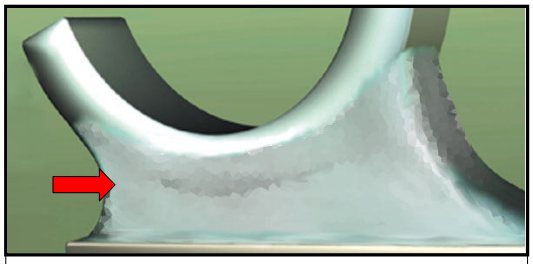
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.11]



UNACCEPTABLE
OPENS / VOIDS

Opens / voids are an indicator of insufficient solder, solder wicking, and/or coplanarity problems.

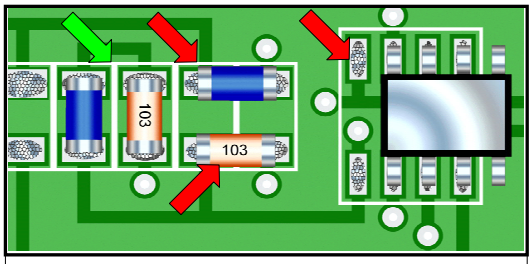
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.5], [12.8.2.b.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
OVERHEATED SOLDER

Overheated solder has a dull, gray, frosty, and/or crystallized appearance and is the result of excessive exposure to heat.

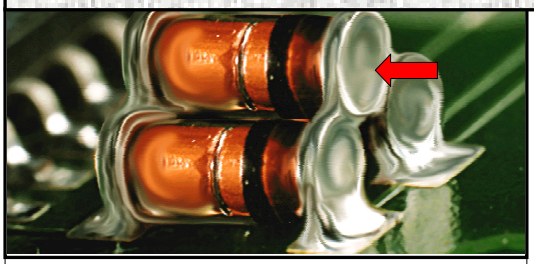
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
PART MISALIGNMENT

Part misalignment is an indicator of improper process control.

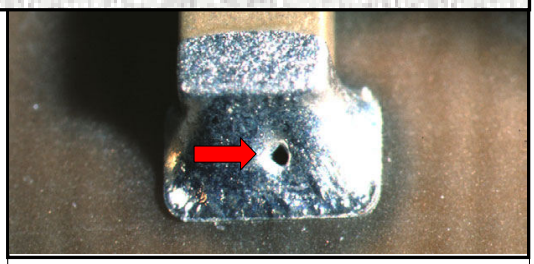
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4], [12.8.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
PIGGYBACKED PARTS

Piggybacking, or stacking, of parts not designed specifically for that configuration is prohibited.

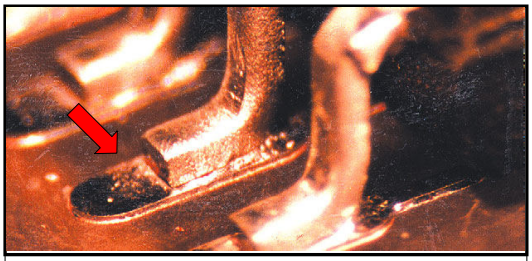
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.e], [12.6.2.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
PINHOLE

Pinholes are typically small holes in the solder surface, leading to a void of indeterminate size within the solder termination.

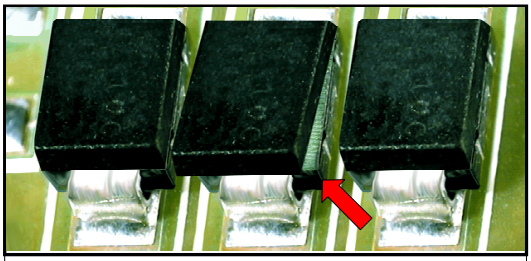
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
POOR WETTING

Poor wetting is an indicator of poor solderability, improper flux, or contamination.

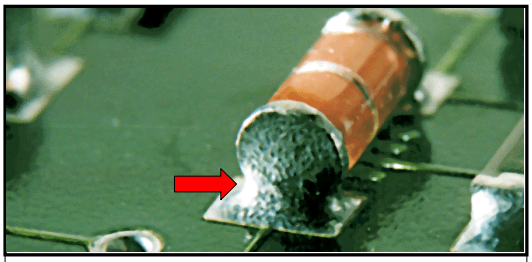
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
POPCORNING

Popcorning is caused by the release of pressure entrapped in the component body during the soldering process. The effect can be relatively minor (body distortion), or destructive (seal breach or delidding).

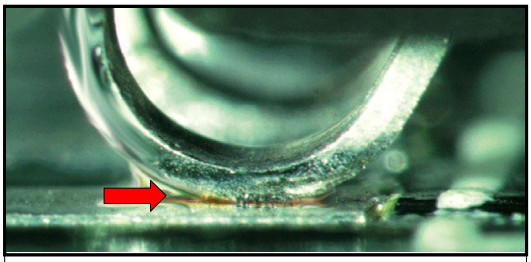
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.7.2.b], [12.8.2.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
POROUS SOLDER

Porous solder is an indication of improper process control (i.e.: excessive flux, inadequate dwell time).

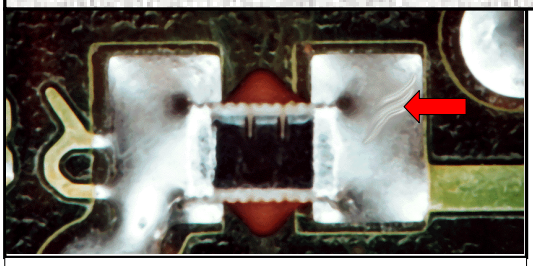
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.17]



UNACCEPTABLE
ROSIN SOLDER JOINT

A rosin solder joint is an indication of improper process control (i.e.: excessive flux, inadequate dwell time).

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
SCRATCHES (SOLDER FILLET)

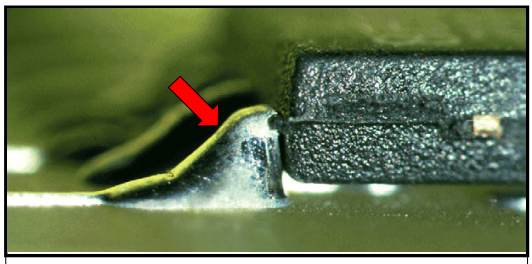
Scratches in the solder are prohibited.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.14]

UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER BALLS / SOLDER FINES

Solder balls or fines are an indication of improper process control (inadequate preheat), and/or the use of outdated solder / flux.

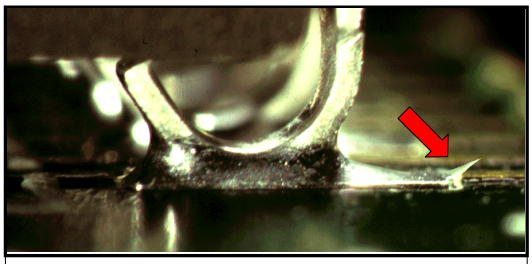
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.19]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER IN STRESS RELIEF BEND

Solder shall not extend into the stress relief bend of any leaded part. In this example, the solder is also in contact with the part body and the body seal.

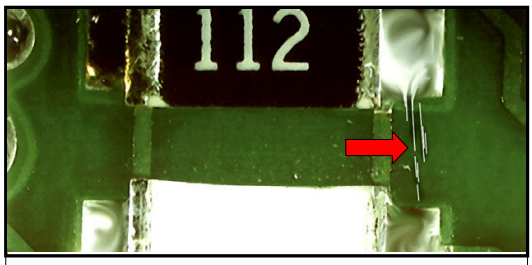
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.16]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER PEAKS, ICICLES, SHARP EDGES

Solder peaks, icicles, and/or sharp edges are an indicator of an improper process parameter and are a reliability and short-circuit concern.

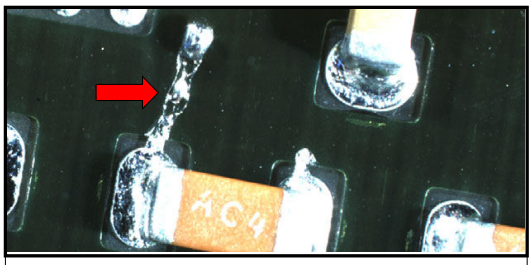
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.c.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER SLIVERS

Solder slivers are an indication of improper process control, and are a reliability and short-circuit concern.

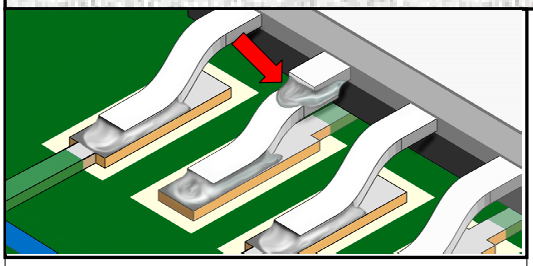
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.20]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER WEBBING

Webbing is an indication of improper process control, and is a reliability and short-circuit concern.

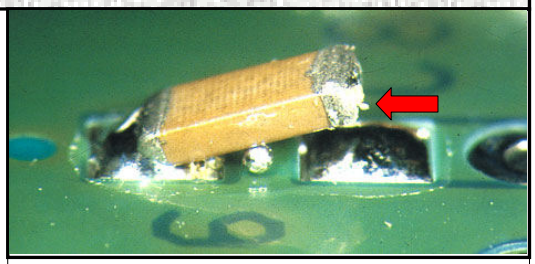
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.18]



UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICED LEADS

Parts having spliced leads shall be rejected.

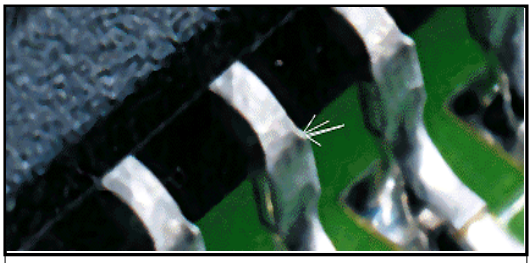
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
TOMBSTONING

Tombstoning is an indicator of poor process control, primarily inadequate solder paste, or inadequate / uneven application of heat.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.2], [12.9.1.b.1]

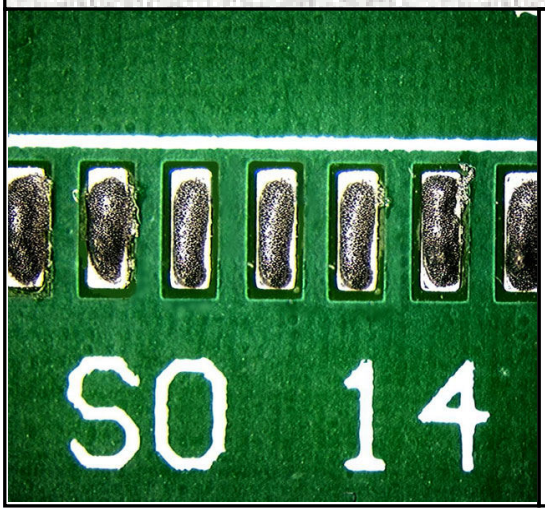


UNACCEPTABLE
WHISKER

A whisker is a slender needle-shaped metallic growth, and is typically the result of mechanical stresses in high tin-alloy plating on component leads. Whiskers are mechanically stronger than dendrites, and are a “dead-short” reliability risk.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.21]

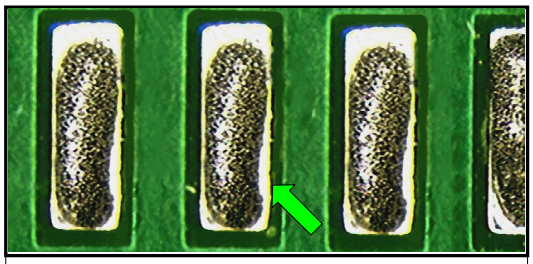
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
SOLDER PASTE / SOLDER PREFORM APPLICATION



SOLDER PASTE / PREFORM APPLICATION

Solder paste is a mixture of solder alloy particles, flux, and other materials, for use in reflow soldering (oven, vapor phase, or infra-red) of surface mount technology (SMT) components.

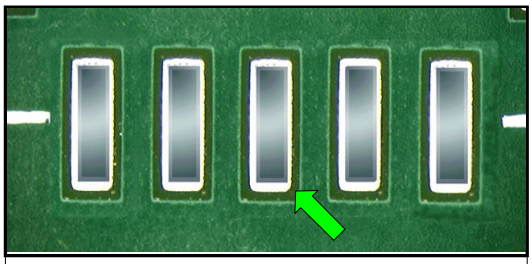
Solder preforms are generally made from solder alloy wire or stamped from solder alloy sheet material, and formed into specific shapes (typically toroids, washers, or donuts) for use in reflow soldering (oven, vapor phase, or infra-red) of plated through hole (PTH) components and some surface mount technology (SMT) components.



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER PASTE APPLICATION

The paste is applied in a uniform thickness, with proper alignment and placement. There is no bridging, bubbles, crusting, separation, or smearing.

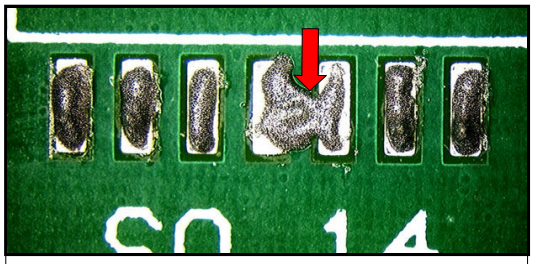
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.2], [8.6]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER PREFORM APPLICATION

The preforms are applied with proper alignment and placement.

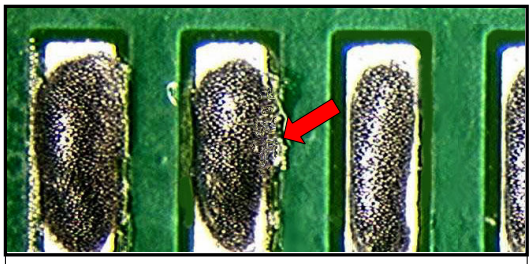
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Bridging of lands is an indicator of improper screen alignment / paste application.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.f], [12.6.1.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
BUBBLES

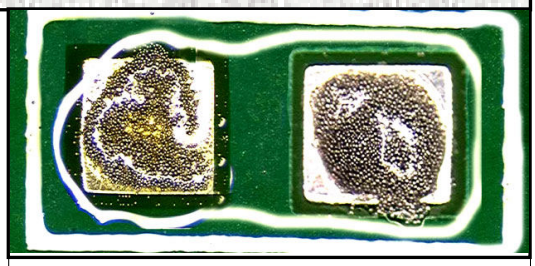
Bubbles in the paste are typically caused by over-mixing, and can affect solder joint formation.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.3]

UNACCEPTABLE
CRUSTING

Crusting of paste is an indicator of improper curing or use of expired material.

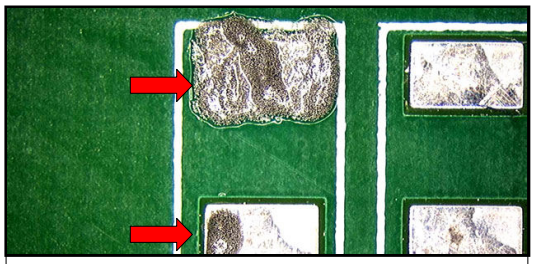
NASA-STD-8739.2 [6.12.2.d.6]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS FLUX

Excess flux can degrade the formation of the solder fillet, leading to porous or rosin solder joints.

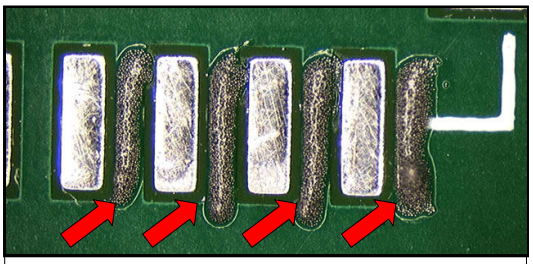
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INCORRECT COVERAGE

Solder paste coverage, which exhibits properties less than those specified by engineering documentation shall be rejected.

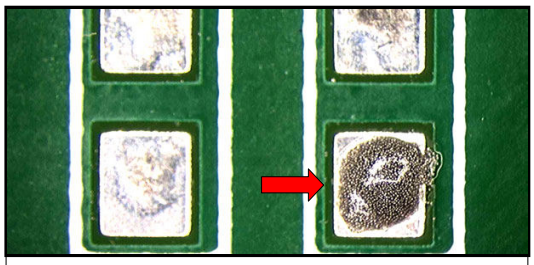
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCORRECT PLACEMENT

Incorrect placement of solder paste / preforms is an indicator of an improper process parameter.

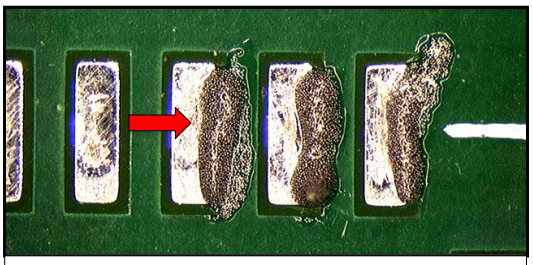
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
ISOLATED DEPOSIT

Isolated deposition of solder paste is an indicator of a process control problem.

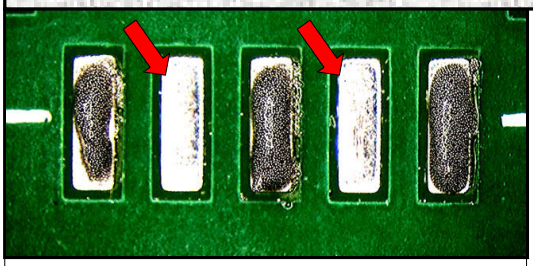
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISALIGNMENT

Solder paste misalignment shall not be in excess of 25% of the spacing between lands.

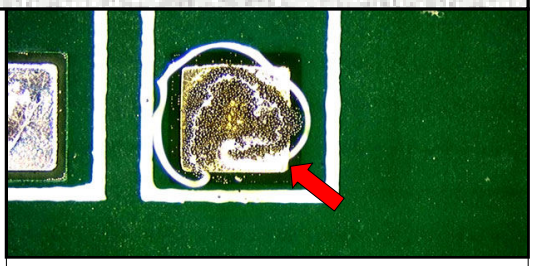
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.1.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING DEPOSIT / PREFORM

Missing paste deposits or preforms are an indicator of an improper process.

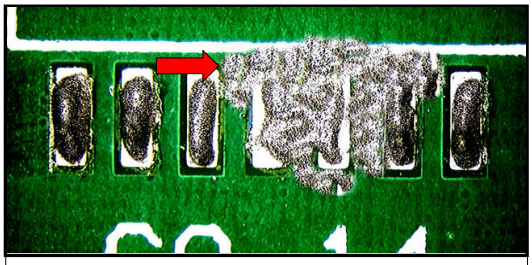
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
PASTE SEPARATION

Paste which exhibits separation shall be rejected.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SMEARING

Smearing that bridges conductors or lands is an indicator of an improper process or handling and shall be rejected.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.f], [12.6.1.a.6]

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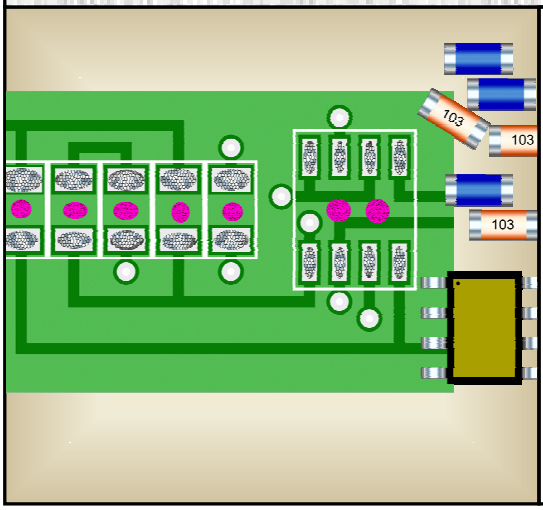
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.**

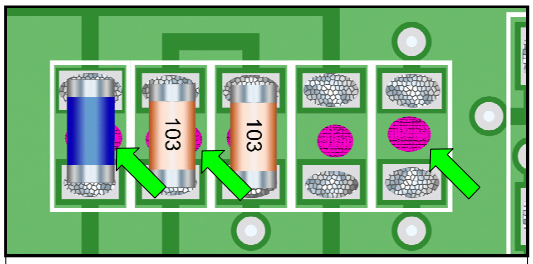
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
ADHESIVE APPLICATION



ADHESIVE APPLICATION

Adhesives are frequently used to temporarily hold SMT components in position prior to soldering. Once the soldering operations are completed, the adhesive residue is removed during the cleaning process.

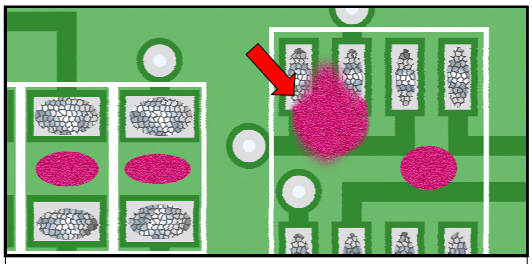
The application of adhesive should be controlled to ensure proper placement, amount, and cure. Excess adhesive, improper placement, or incomplete cure can contaminate solder paste and solderable surfaces, interfere with proper component alignment, and impact cleanability.



PREFERRED

The deposition of adhesive is consistent, properly placed, and repeatable. Dots are centered under the part body, equidistant between the land pattern areas.

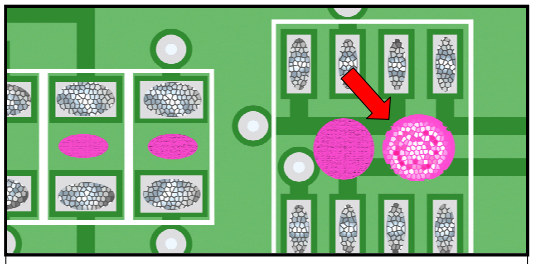
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.9], [8.10.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
ADHESIVE ON LEADS / SOLDER PADS

Adhesive deposits on part leads and/or solder pads interfere with proper placement, component retention, and solderability.

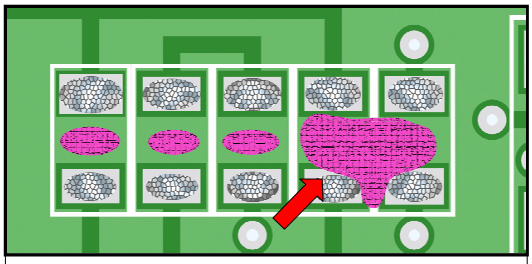
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.10.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
VOIDS

Bubbles and voids in the adhesive reduce the deposit's cross-section and retention properties.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.9], [8.10.1]

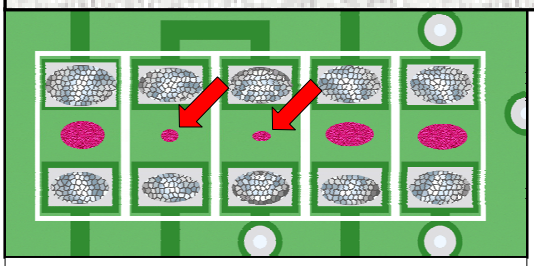


UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE ADHESIVE

Excessive adhesive interferes with proper placement, component retention, and solderability.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.10.3]

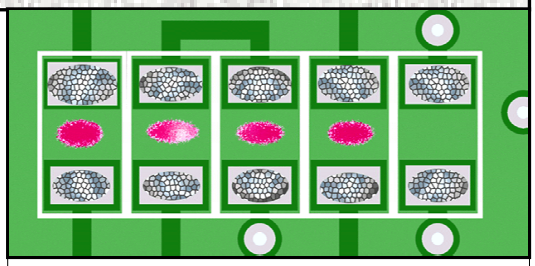
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
ADHESIVE APPLICATION (cont.)



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT ADHESIVE

Insufficient adhesive may result in lost and/or misaligned components, and increased rework.

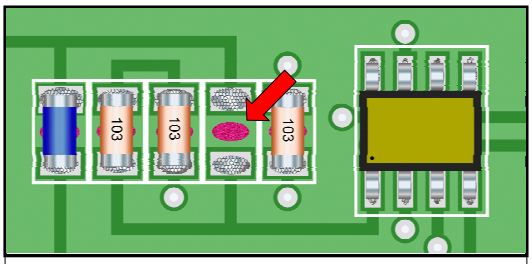
NASA-STD-8739.2 [6.15.1], [8.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT CURE

Insufficiently cured adhesive may result in lost and/or misaligned components, and increased rework.

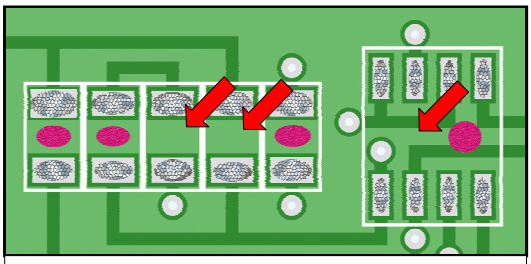
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
LOST COMPONENTS

Evidence of lost components indicates a process control problem (excessive / insufficient adhesive, insufficient cure, etc.).

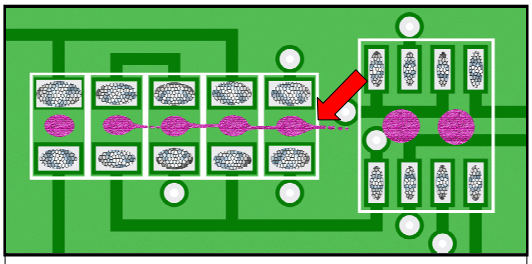
NASA-STD-8739.2 [6.15.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SKIPPING

Skipping is an indicator of a process control problem, and may result in lost components and increased rework.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.9]

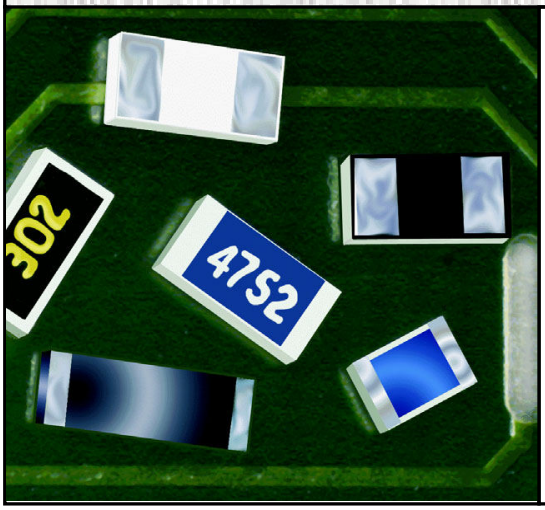


UNACCEPTABLE
STRINGING

Stringing is an indicator of a process control problem, is a contaminant, and affects overall solderability.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [6.15.1]

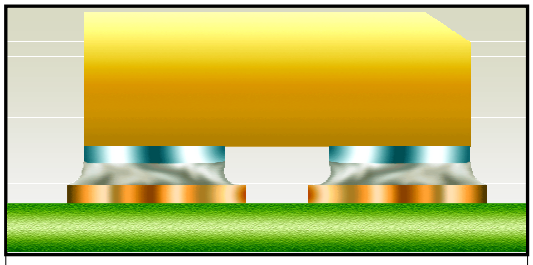
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
CHIP COMPONENTS / BOTTOM-ONLY TERMINATIONS



CHIP COMPONENTS
BOTTOM-ONLY TERMINATIONS

The mechanical properties of the solder joints of bottom-only terminations are slightly reduced from those of 1-3-5 chip components, as only the metallized termination pads on the underside of the component are available for mechanical and electrical attachment to the printed wiring board. The bottom only termination presents some difficulty during visual inspection, as very little of the actual termination is exposed or visible.

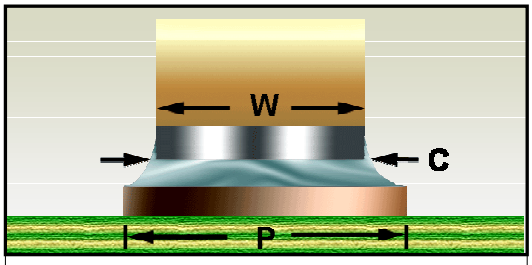
See Section 7.01 “Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The component is properly centered between the lands and exhibits acceptable solder thickness and tilt. No mechanical or heat damage is evident.

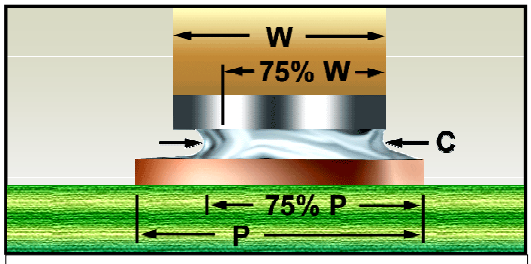
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1]



PREFERRED
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint is equal to the width of the component (W), and extends to the width of the land (P).

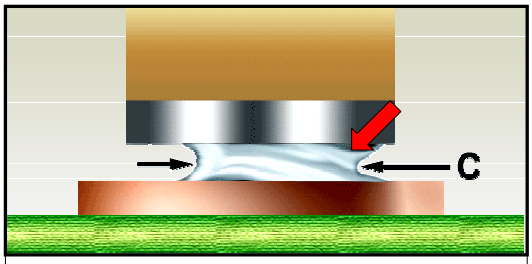
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

End joint width shall not be less than 75% of the component termination width (W) or less than 75% of the land width (P).

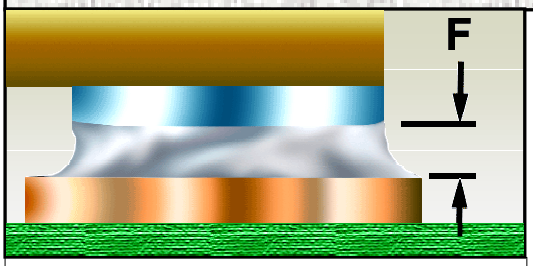
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

An end joint of insufficient width indicates that there may be solderability problems that may adversely impact the long-term reliability and integrity of the solder termination

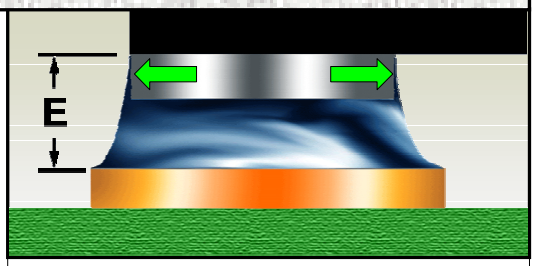
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (F)

There shall be evidence of a properly wetted fillet on the exposed sides of the termination.

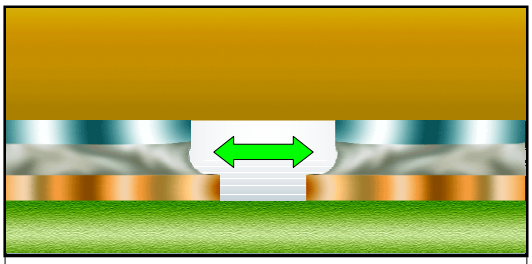
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.a]



PREFERRED
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle and shall not contact the component body.

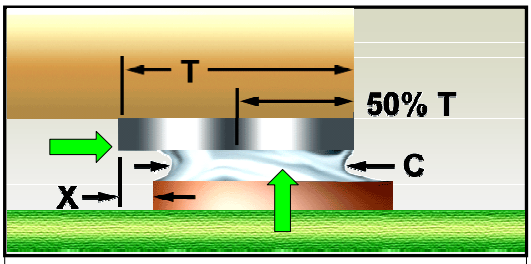
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.8.2.b.12], [12.9.1.a]



PREFERRED
INSIDE OVERHANG

The target condition is the component centered between the termination pads, without the inside edges of the metallization pads overhanging the edges of the termination pads.

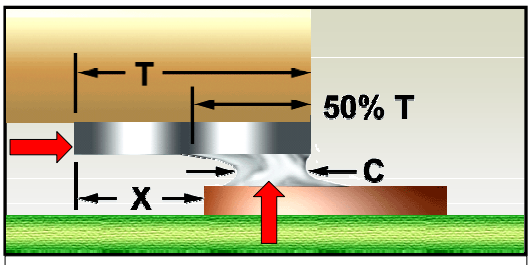
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.2]



ACCEPTABLE
INSIDE OVERHANG (X)

Inside overhang (X) shall be less than or equal to 50% of the end termination width (T) and the minimum end joint width (C) requirements shall be met.

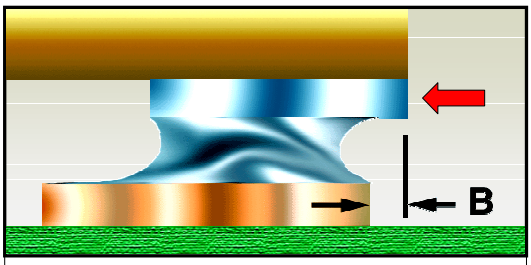
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS INSIDE OVERHANG (X)

Inside overhang shall not exceed 50% of the end termination width (t) and the minimum end joint width (C) requirements shall be met.

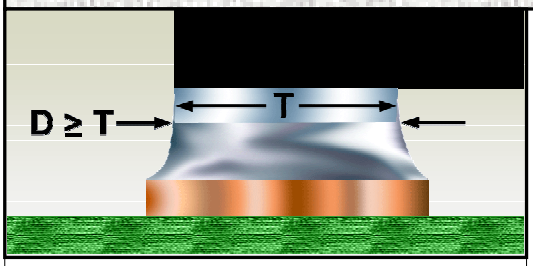
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
END OVERHANG (B)

Overhang of the chip's metallization (pad) beyond the outside edge of the termination pad is not permitted.

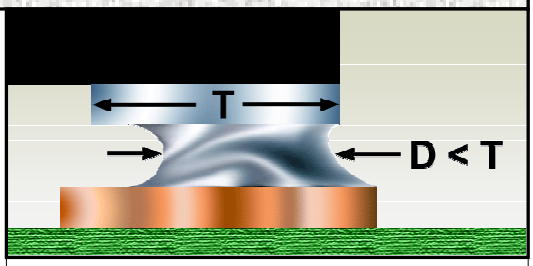
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SIDE JOINT LENGTH (D)

The length of the side joint fillet equals or exceeds the component termination pad length (T).

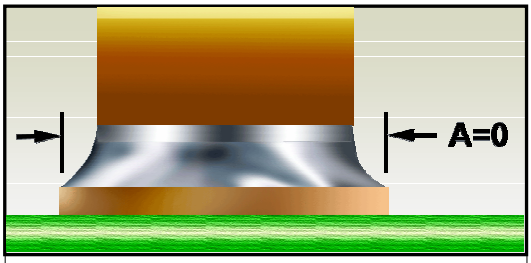
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT LENGTH (D)

Any side joint length is acceptable, provided there is evidence of a side joint, and all other joint parameters are met.

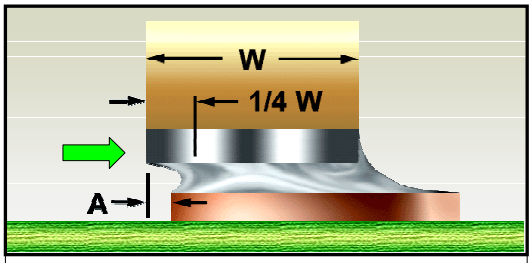
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SIDE / LATERAL OVERHANG (A)

The component is centered on the pads, with no side / lateral overhang (A).

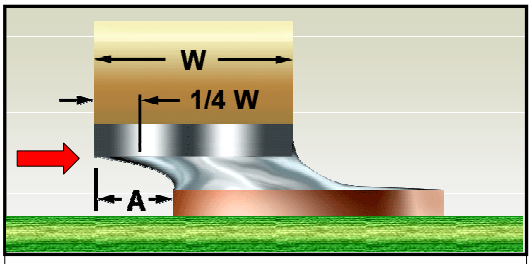
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE / LATERAL OVERHANG (A)

Side overhang shall not exceed 25% of the part width (W) and the minimum end joint width (C) requirements shall be met.

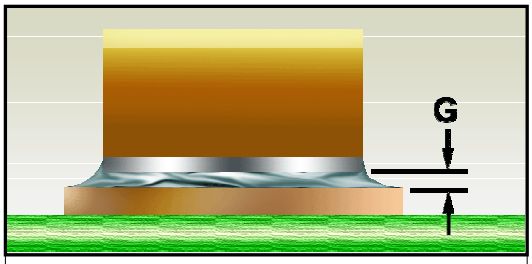
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SIDE / LATERAL OVERHANG (A)

Side overhang in excess of 25% of the part width (W) and/or the minimum end joint width (C) may impact the long-term reliability and integrity of the solder termination.

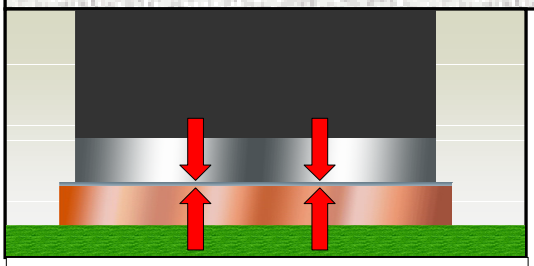
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.7]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder quantity shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet on the vertical surfaces of the chip, and which exhibits good wetting to the chip metallization and termination pad.

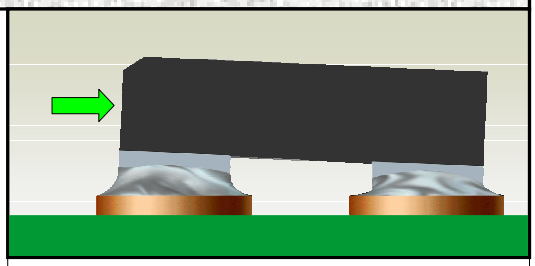
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12. 8.1.b], [12.9.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder quantity is insufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet which exhibits good wetting to the chip metallization and termination pad.

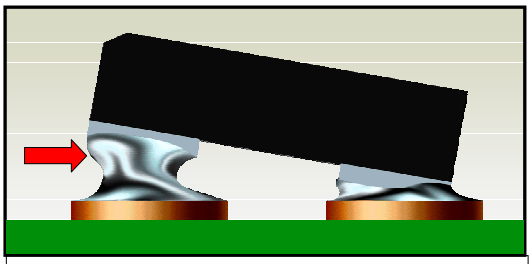
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.5]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

Part tilt shall be less than or equal to 25 % of the part thickness, and shall not interfere with the proper placement of adjacent parts.

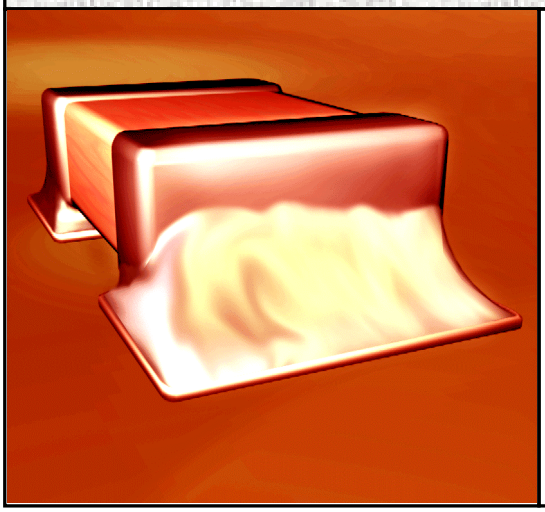
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2], [12.9.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS TILT

Part tilt in excess of 25% of the part thickness may impact the long-term reliability and integrity of the solder termination, and may interfere with the proper placement and thermal profile of adjacent parts.

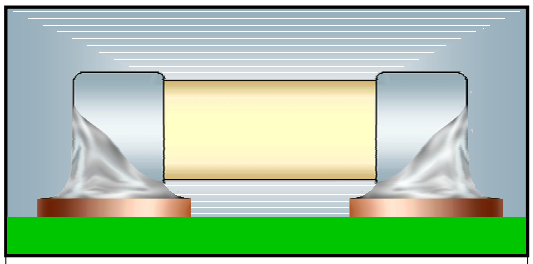
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.1], [12.9.1.b.2]



CHIP COMPONENTS - RECTANGULAR / SQUARE END TERMINATIONS
(1-3-5 SIDED)

Rectangular and square-end chip components are characterized by their metallized termination cap design. Unlike their bottom-only termination cousins, the standard chip may be supplied with metallization on the end surfaces (1-sided); the bottom, end, and top surfaces (3-sided); or, the bottom, end, top, and sides of the termination cap (5-sided).

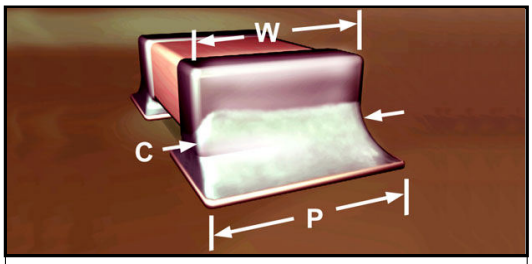
See Section 7.01 “Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

Device is centered on the termination pads, with proper end overlap and no inside overhang. The solder termination exhibits a full concave fillet on the vertical terminal faces, with evidence of good wetting to the chip metallization and extends to the periphery of the land.

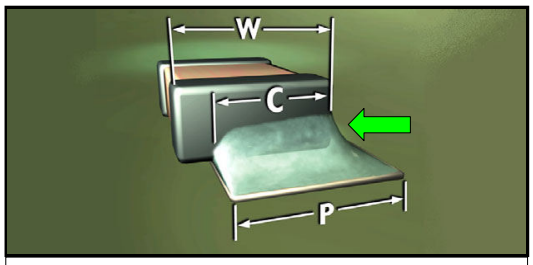
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g], [12.9.1.a]



PREFERRED
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The End Joint Width (C) shall be equal to or greater than the component width (W) or width of the land (P), whichever is less.

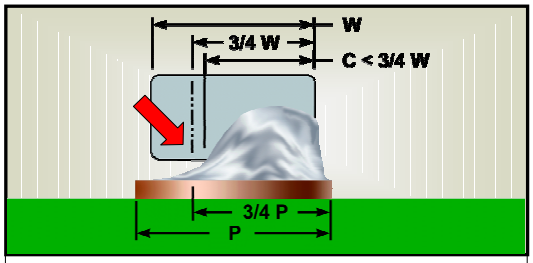
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The End Joint Width (C) shall be 75% of the component width (W) or width of the land (P), whichever is less.

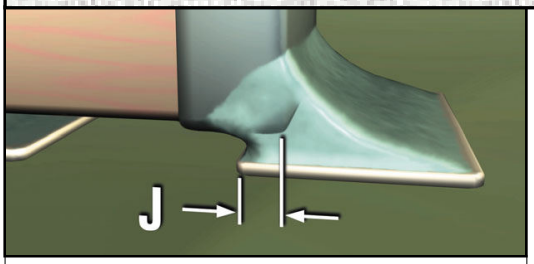
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint shall not be less than 75% of the component termination width (W), or 75% of the land width (P), whichever is less.

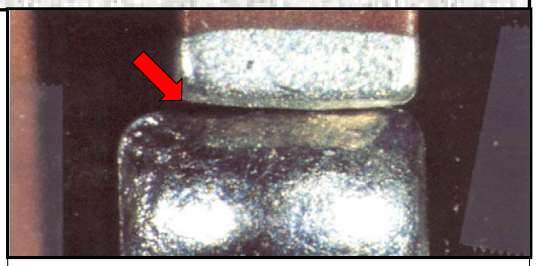
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END OVERLAP (J)

There shall be end overlap (J) between the component termination cap and the termination pad. Preferentially, the end overlap (J) should equal the termination cap length, with the component centered between the pads.

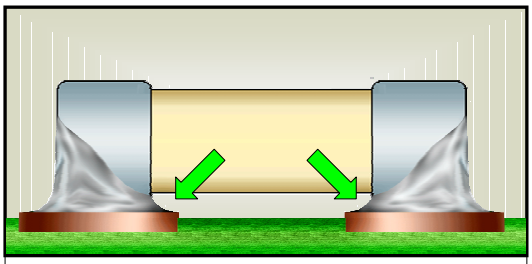
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END OVERLAP (J)

There shall be end overlap (J) between the component termination cap and the termination pad to ensure the proper formation of the solder fillet.

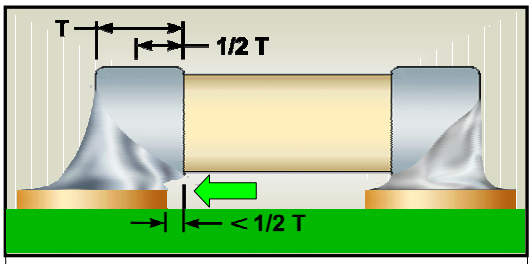
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
INSIDE OVERHANG

The target condition is the component centered between the termination pads, without the inside edge(s) of the metallization pads overhanging the termination pad(s).

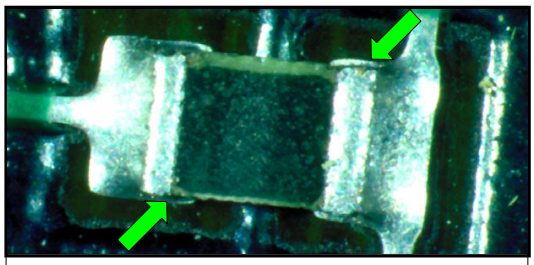
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.2]



ACCEPTABLE
INSIDE OVERHANG

Inside overhang of the chip's metallization pad shall be less than or equal to 50% of the end termination width (t) and the minimum end joint width (C) requirements shall be met.

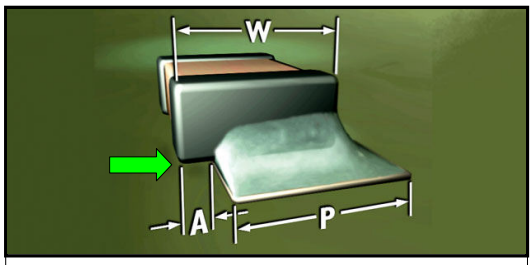
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.2]



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The target condition is no lateral / side overhang, with the component centered on the land.

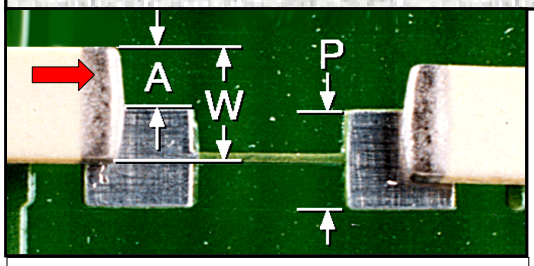
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.1]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang (A) shall not exceed 25% of the component termination area (W) or land width (P), whichever is smaller.

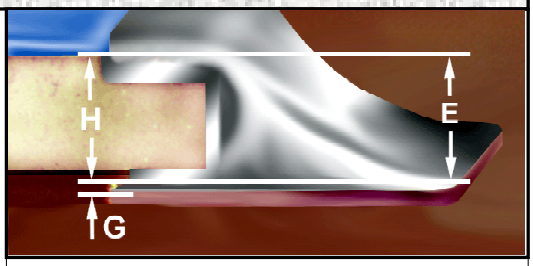
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.g.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The component shall not hang over the edge of the termination land by more than 25% of the component termination area (W), or 25% of the land width (P), whichever is less.

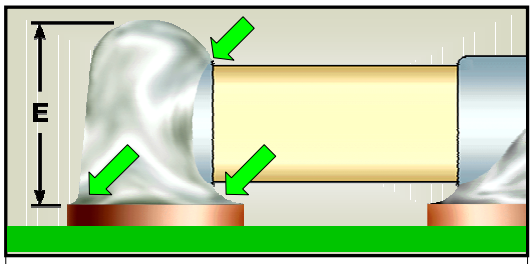
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.7]



PREFERRED
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The maximum fillet height shall be the solder thickness (G) plus the component termination height (H).

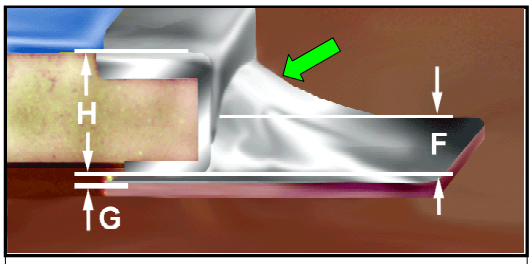
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The fillet may extend over the top of the end cap metallization, provided the fillet exhibits a positive wetting angle, and does not contact the component body.

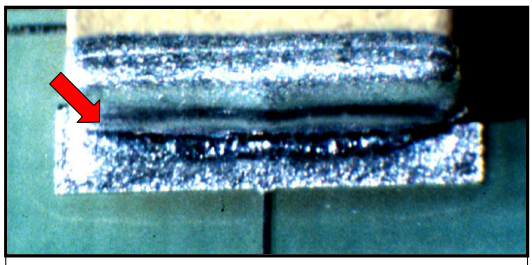
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The minimum fillet height shall be equal to or greater than the minimum solder thickness (G), plus 50% of the component termination height (H).

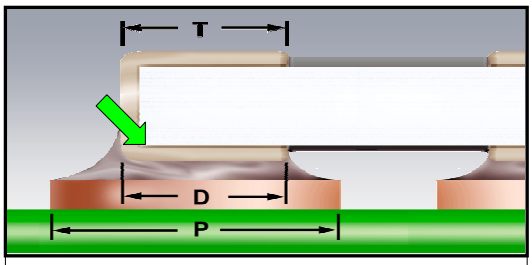
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT FILLET HEIGHT (F)

There shall be evidence of a properly wetted fillet between the chip and the land.

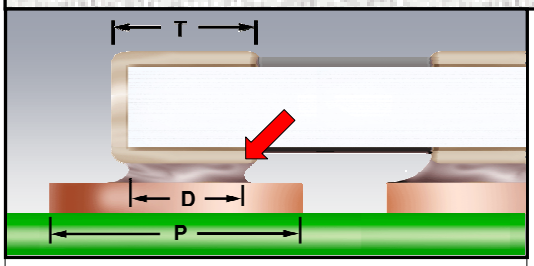
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.3], [12.9.1.b.5]



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT LENGTH (D)

The side joint length should be equal to the End Termination Length (T) and should extend to the periphery of the termination pad (P).

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT LENGTH (D)

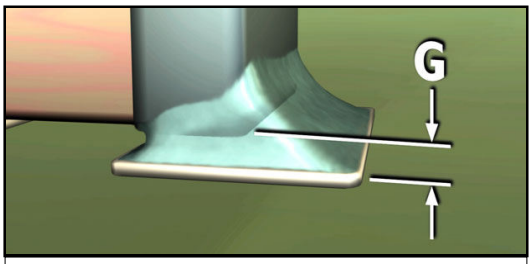
Although the solder fillet exhibits good wetting, the side joint length (D) is less than the End Termination Length (T), and does not extend to the periphery of the termination pad (P).

Best Workmanship Practice

UNACCEPTABLE
SIDE MOUNT

The mounting of chip components on their side is prohibited.

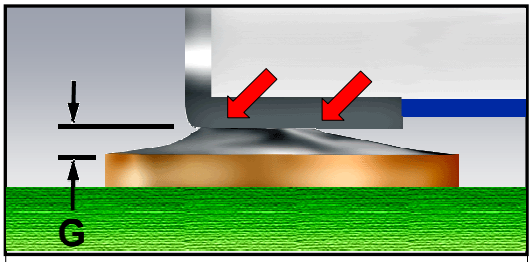
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder quantity shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet on the vertical surfaces of the chip, and which exhibits good wetting to the chip metallization and termination pad.

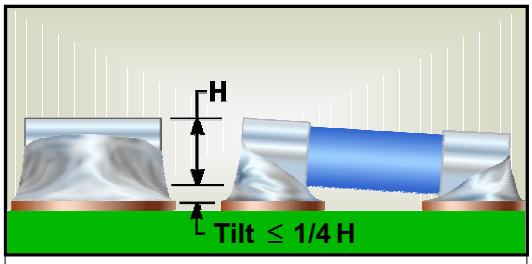
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12. 8.1.b], [12.9.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder quantity is insufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet which exhibits good wetting to the chip metallization and termination pad.

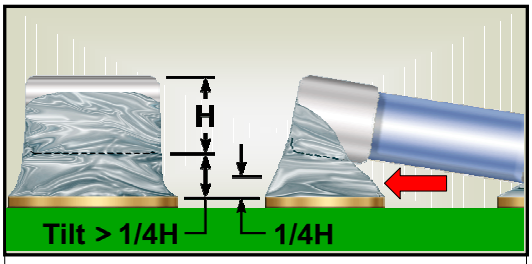
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.5]



ACCEPTABLE
TILT

Part tilt shall not exceed 25% of the part thickness (H), and shall not interfere with the proper placement of adjacent parts.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.3]

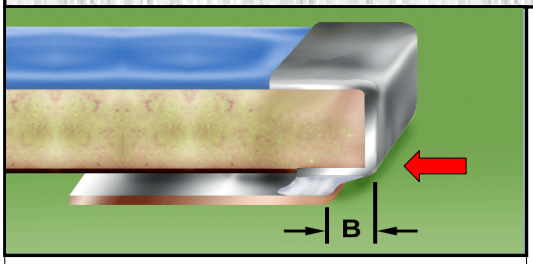


UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS TILT

Part tilt shall not exceed 25% of the component thickness (H), and shall not interfere with the proper placement of adjacent parts, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.1], [12.9.1.b.2]

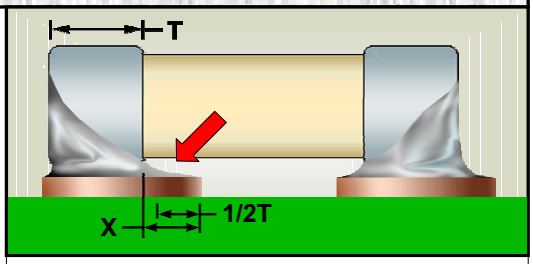
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
CHIP COMPONENTS – RECTANGULAR / SQUARE END TERMINATIONS (cont.)



UNACCEPTABLE
END OVERHANG (B)

End overhang is not permitted.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS INSIDE OVERLAP (X)

Inside overlap (X) shall not exceed 50% of the End Termination Length (T).

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.1.b.8]

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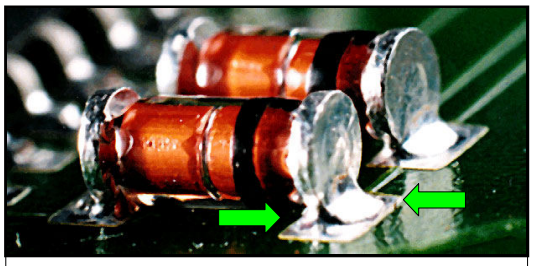
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.**

SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
METALLIZED ELECTRODE FACE - MELF

METALLIZED ELECTRODE FACE (MELF)

The Metallized Electrode Face (MELF) termination is characterized as a cylindrical package with metallized end caps, and is commonly used for the packaging of discrete diodes, capacitors, and resistors. Since they are cylindrical, the MELF does not have to be placed with the resistive elements facing away from the board surface, as is the case with rectangular chip packages. Like their through-hole axial cousins, MELFs are typically color-coded for value.

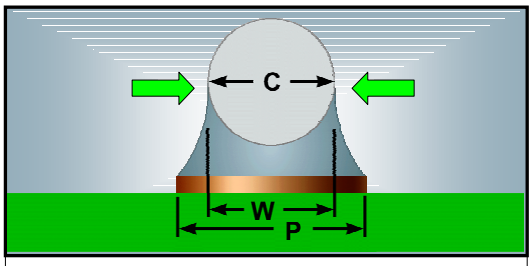
See Section 7.01 “Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The termination exhibits a concave fillet on the terminal faces, with evidence of good wetting to the metallization and the periphery of the land.

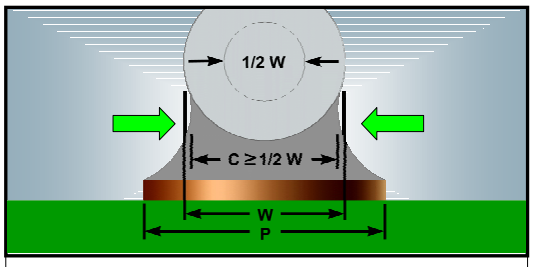
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4], [12.9.6]



PREFERRED
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The End Joint Width (C) shall be equal to or greater than the component width (W) or width of the land (P), whichever is less.

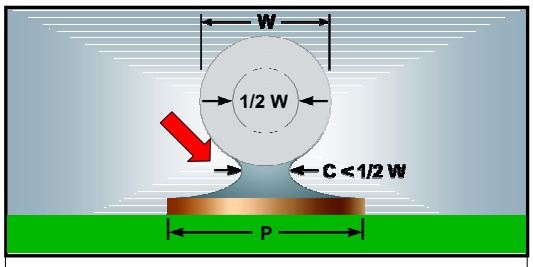
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The End Joint Width (C) shall be ≥ 50% of the component width (W) or width of the land (P), whichever is less.

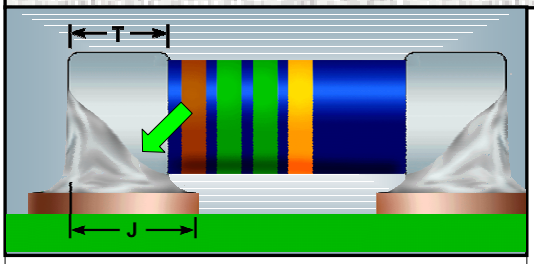
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint shall not be less than 50% of the component width (W), or land width (P), whichever is less.

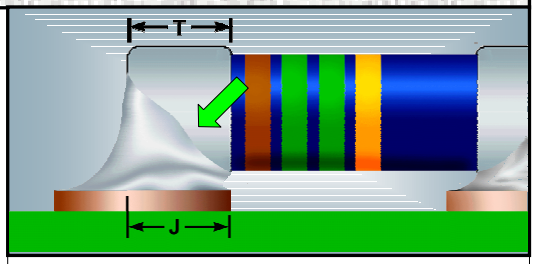
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
END OVERLAP (J)

The component should be positioned such that the termination caps are centered between the termination pads, resulting in fillet formation on all edges of the metallization. End overlap (J) should be greater than the termination cap length (T).

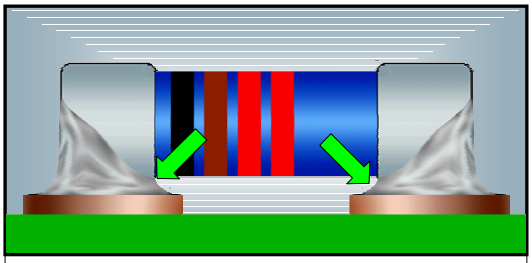
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END OVERLAP (J)

The termination cap shall overlap the land by at least 75% of the termination cap length (T). Example shows the inside edge of the termination cap even with the land / pad edge, with end overlap (J) equal to the termination cap length.

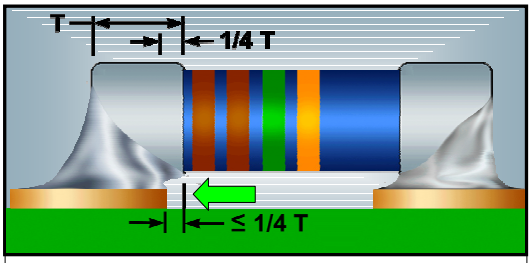
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
INSIDE OVERHANG

The component is centered between the pads, with no portion of the termination cap overhanging the inside edges of the solder termination pads.

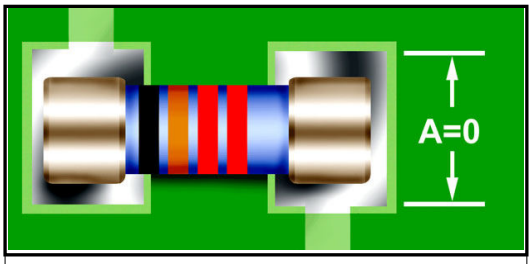
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.l], [12.9.6]



ACCEPTABLE
INSIDE OVERHANG

Inside overhang shall be less than or equal to 25% of the component termination length (T).

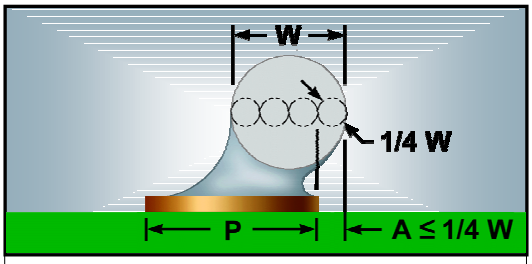
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.l], [12.6.2.a.8]



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The target condition is no lateral / side overhang, with the component centered on the land.

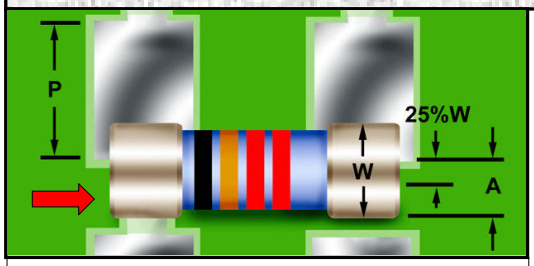
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.l]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang (A) shall not exceed 25% of the component diameter (W) or land width (P), whichever is smaller.

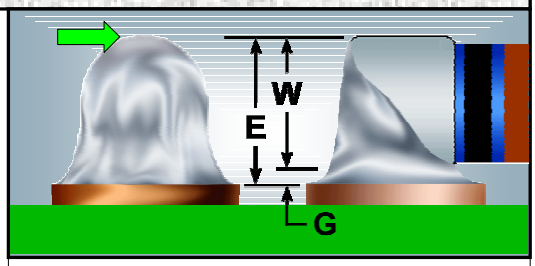
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.l], [12.6.2.a.8], [12.9.6.b.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The component shall not hang over the edge of the termination land by more than 25% of the component diameter (W) or land width (P), whichever is less.

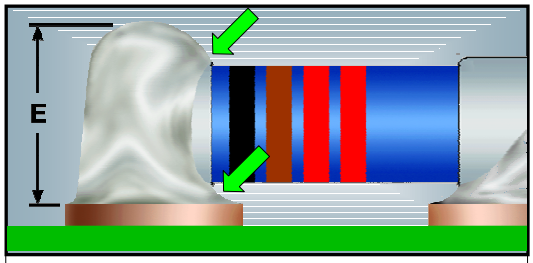
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.b.1]



PREFERRED
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The maximum height of the solder fillet is 100% of the component diameter (W), plus solder thickness (G). The solder fillet exhibits full wetting, with positive angles, and does not extend over the top surface of the component cap.

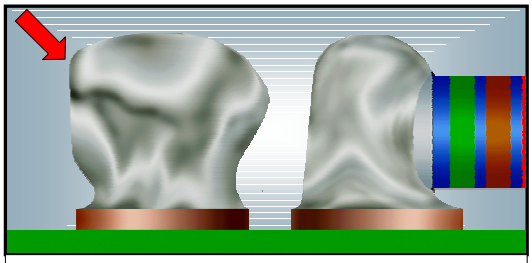
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The fillet may extend over the top of the end cap metallization, provided the fillet exhibits a positive wetting angle and does not contact the part body.

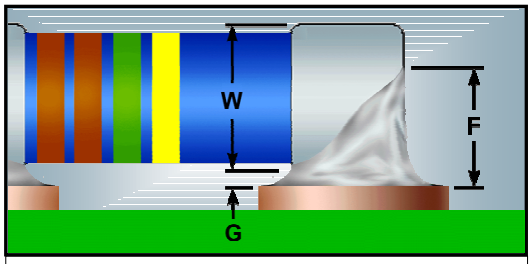
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
TERMINATION CONTOUR IS NOT DISCERNABLE

The contour of the termination shall be discernable in the solder fillet.

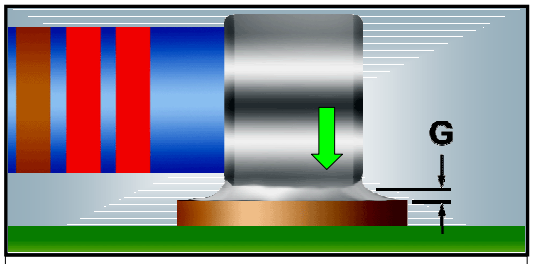
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.b.5]



PREFERRED
MINIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The minimum height of the solder fillet shall be ≥ 50% of the component diameter (W) plus the solder thickness (G), and shall extend the entire width of the part contact area.

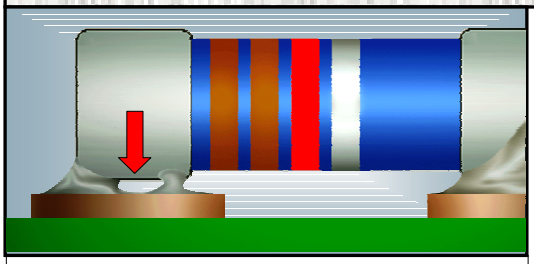
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall be sufficient to exhibit a properly wetted fillet, and complete solder flow under the component end cap.

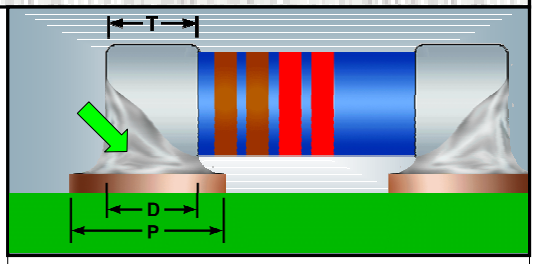
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.6.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

There shall be evidence of complete solder flow and wetting under the component end cap.

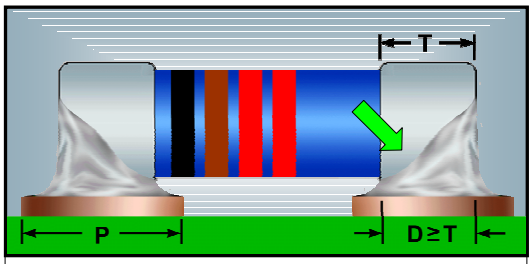
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.b.4]



PREFERRED
SIDE FILLET LENGTH (D)

The side fillet should be equal to the End Termination Length (T), or Land Width (P), whichever is less.

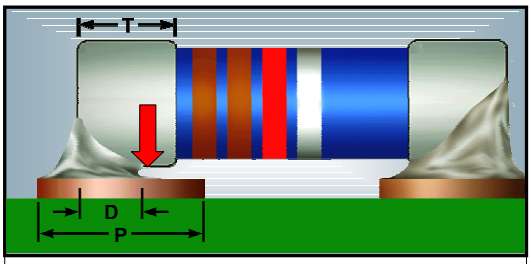
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE FILLET LENGTH (D)

The side fillet shall be greater than or equal to the End Termination Length (T) or land width (P), whichever is less.

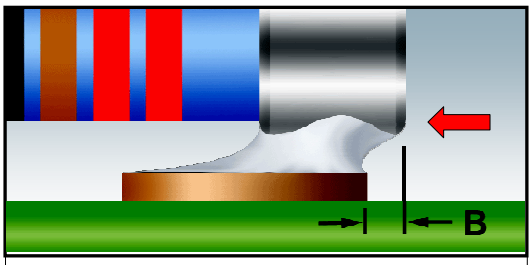
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.6.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SIDE FILLET (D)

The side fillet shall be ≥ to 75% of the End Termination Length (T) or land width (P), whichever is less.

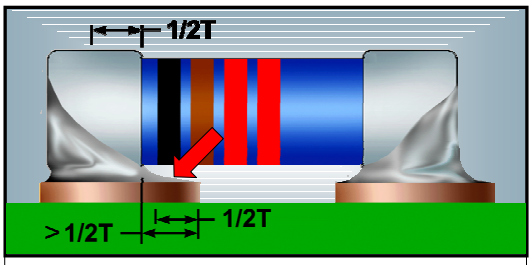
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
END OVERHANG (B)

The end of the component termination cap should not extend beyond the outside edge of the termination pad.

Best Workmanship Practice

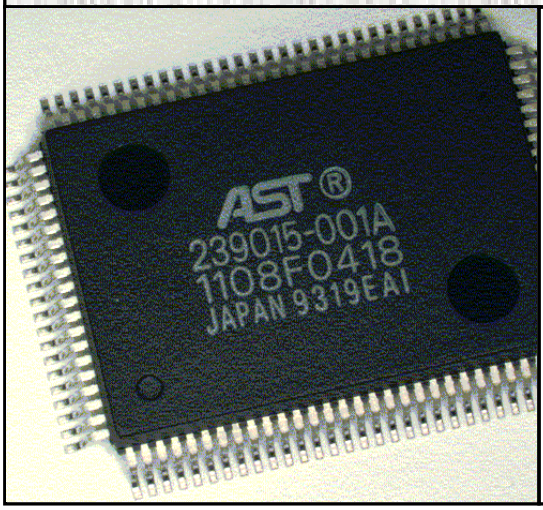


UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS INSIDE OVERLAP

The component body should not overlap the termination pad in excess of 50% of the End Termination Length (T).

Best Workmanship Practice

SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
GULL-WING / "L" LEADED PACKAGES

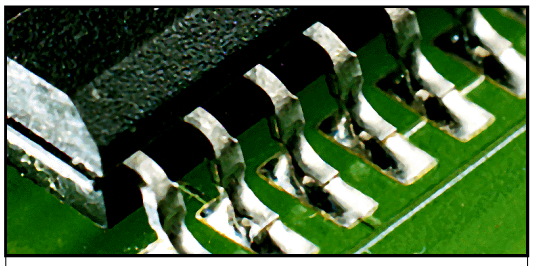


GULL-WING / "L" LEADED PACKAGES

Gull-Wing IC package leads are formed in a profile very similar to the outline of a seagull's wings. The Gull-Wing is considered one of the most reliable terminations for fine-pitch, high pin-count packages.

"L" leaded IC packages have leads formed in a configuration very similar to the outline of the letter "L". The leads are shorter (length and height) than the "Gull-Wing" and tend to be much stiffer (hardened).

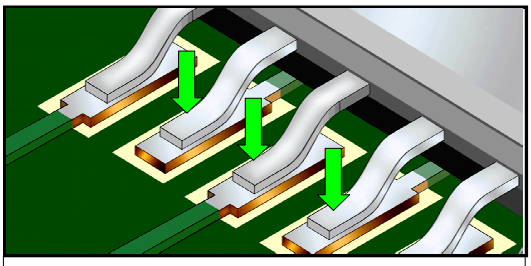
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The part is properly oriented to the land pattern, with each lead centered across the width of the land. Leads are planar, fillets are shiny and concave, and heel fillet is evident.

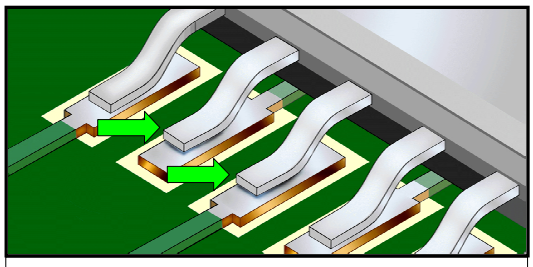
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.h], [12.6.2], [12.8]



PREFERRED
COPLANARITY

The preferred planarity of the lead to the land pattern area is with the foot parallel and in full contact with the pad.

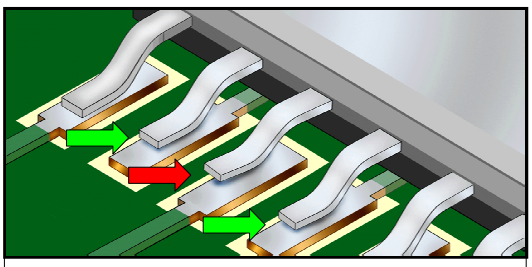
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]



ACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable non-planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

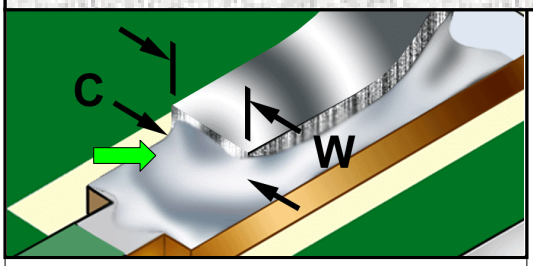
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.9.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable non-planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

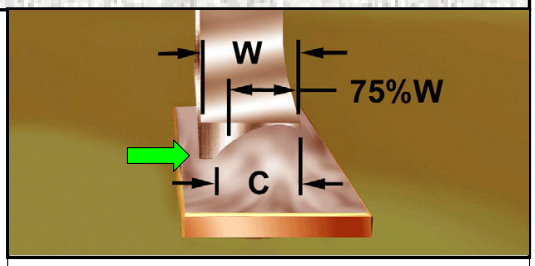
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.b.3]



PREFERRED
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint (C) should be greater than or equal to the lead width (W).

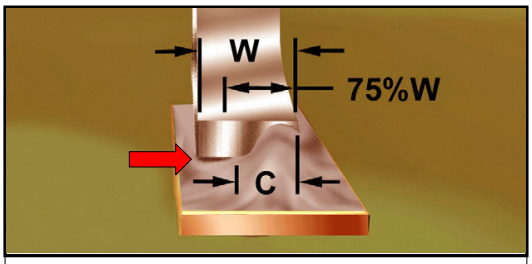
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint shall be greater than or equal to 75% of the lead width (W).

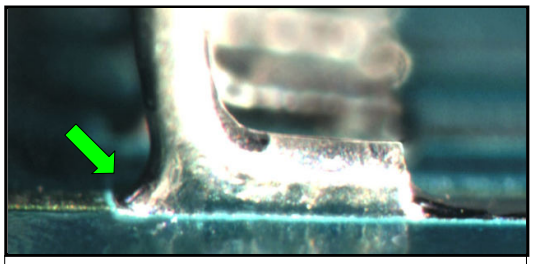
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint (C) is less than 75% of the lead width (W).

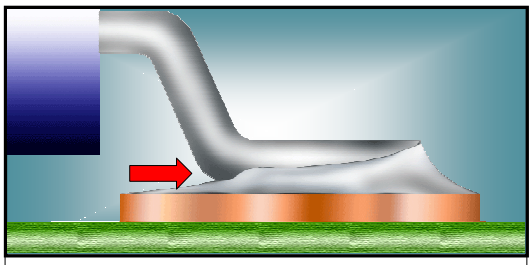
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and the contour shall be positive.

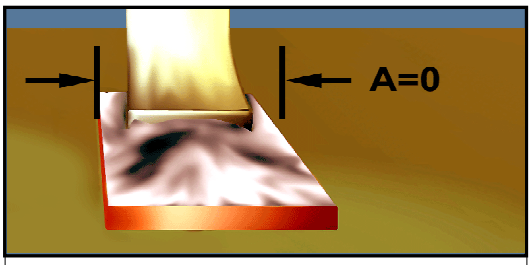
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.b.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING HEEL FILLET

A missing heel fillet is an indicator of improper process, and may impact the long-term reliability and integrity of the solder termination. A heel fillet is mandatory and the contour shall be positive.

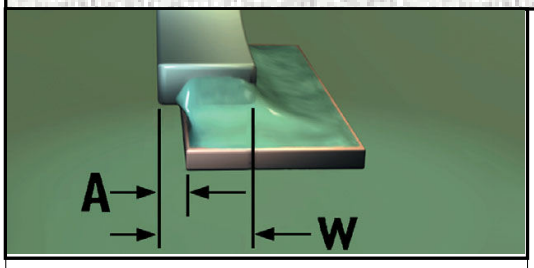
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.b.5]



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The target condition is no lateral / side overhang (A), with the component lead centered on the land.

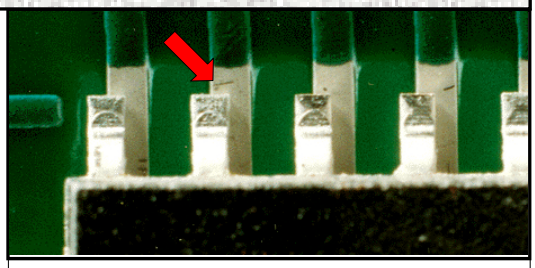
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.h], [12.6.2]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

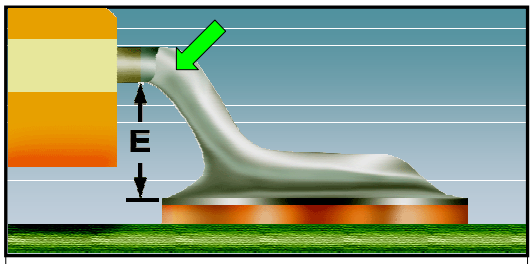
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.h.l], [12.6.2.a.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

Lateral / side overhang shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

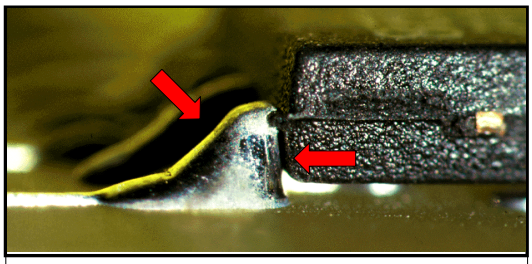
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.b.1]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (E)

Solder may extend through the stress relief bend, but must not contact the lead seal. Solder shall exhibit a concave fillet and the lead contour shall be visible.

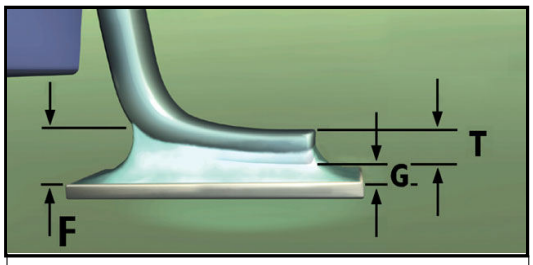
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.8.2.b.16]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The lead contour is not discernable; the solder extends through the stress-relief bends; and, the solder contacts the component body and seal.

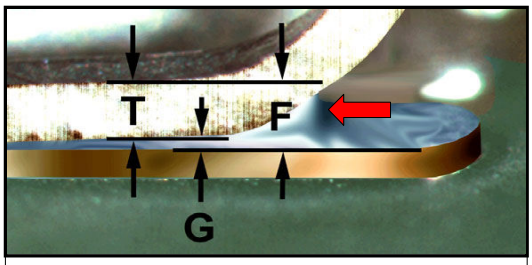
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.12], [12.8.2.b.16], [12.9.2.a.2]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The fillet height shall be equal to or greater than the minimum solder thickness (G), plus one (1) lead thickness (T).

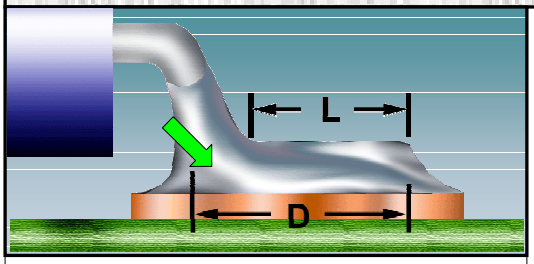
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The heel fillet height is less than the minimum solder thickness (G), plus one (1) lead thickness (T). This may result in a weakened solder termination.

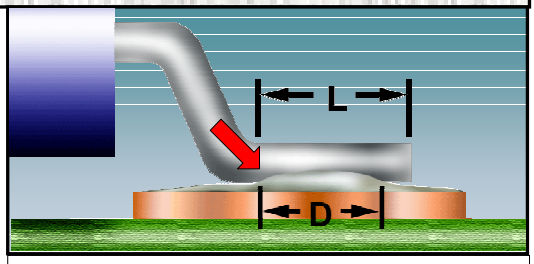
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet (D) shall be present, equal to the lead width (W) plus the heel fillet, or equal to a minimum of 75% of lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, whichever is less, and exhibit complete wetting and a positive contour.

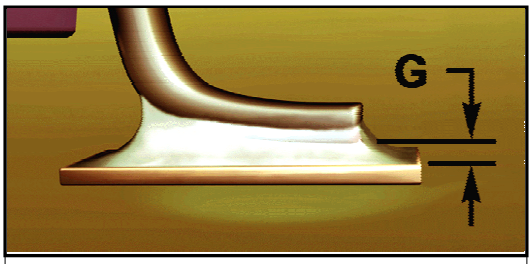
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet shall be present, equal to the lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, and exhibit a positive contour.

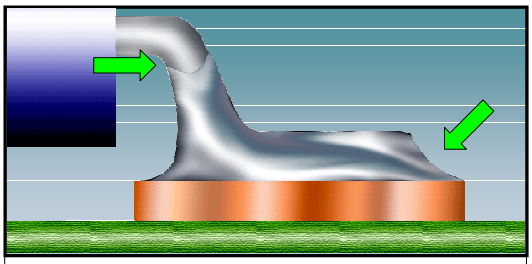
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b]



PREFERRED
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet which extends over the complete periphery of the connection.

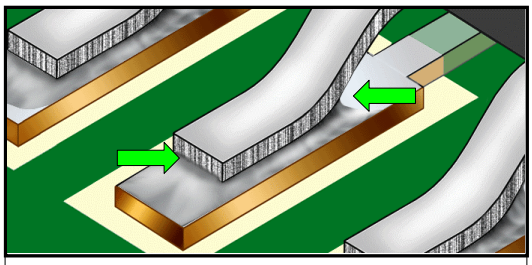
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.2.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM SOLDER

Solder quantity is at maximum, with the fillet extending up to the lead bend and completely covering the lead. The connection exhibits a well-wetted concave fillet on all sides, and the lead contour is discernable.

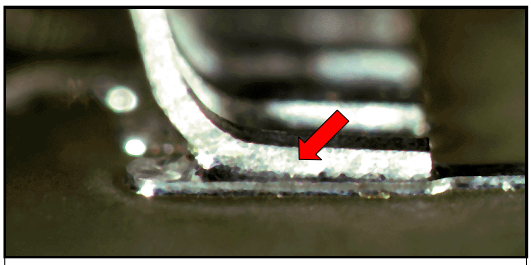
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.2.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER

Solder quantity is minimum, but the connection is well wetted on all sides, with a concave fillet between the lead and the land. A heel fillet is evident and properly formed.

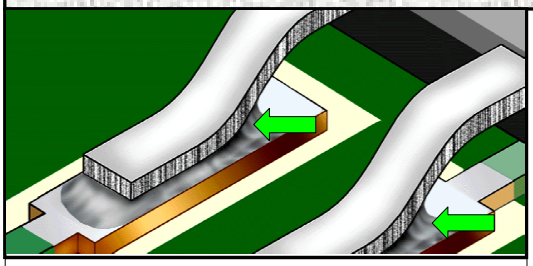
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

The solder quantity shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted fillet.

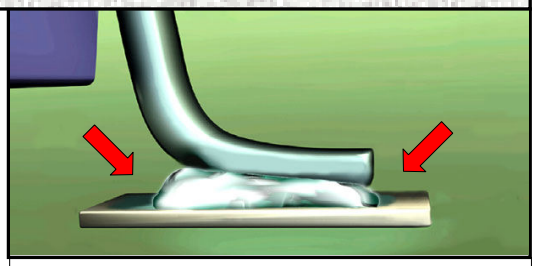
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.6]



ACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING
(SPECIAL EXCLUSION)

Leads not having wettable sides (edges) by design (such as leads stamped from pre-plated stock) are not required to exhibit side fillets.

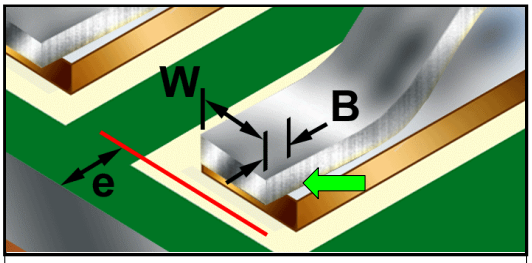
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WETTING

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, wet all elements of the connection, and shall extend to the edge of the pad.

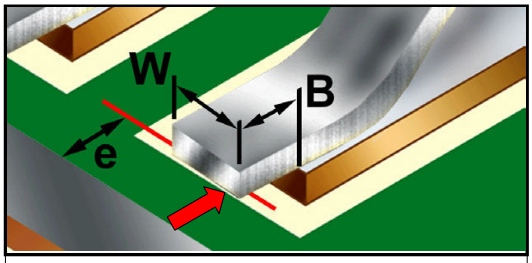
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.a.1], [12.9.2.b.4]



ACCEPTABLE
TOE OVERHANG (B)

Toe overhang (B) shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing (e) requirements.

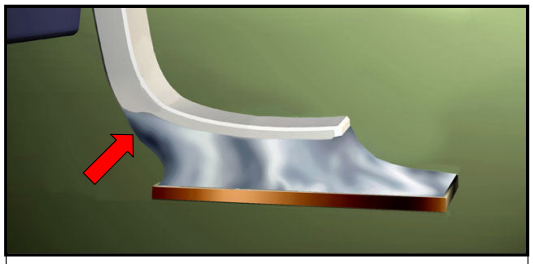
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.h.2], [12.6.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE TOE OVERHANG (B)

Toe overhang (B) shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing (e) requirements.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.4], [12.9.2.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
HEEL OVERHANG

Heel overhang is prohibited.

Best Workmanship Practice

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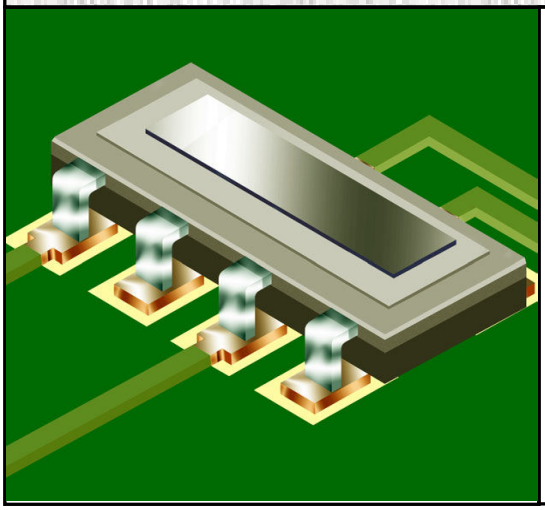
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

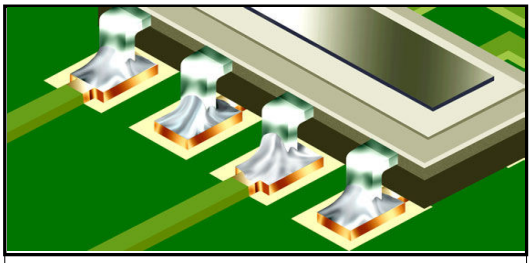


BUTT "I" LEADED PACKAGES

Butt / "I" leaded parts have leads formed and positioned perpendicular to the circuit land.

The use of the Butt / "I" Leaded device termination configuration is not recommended for high reliability / spaceflight applications, due to the limited mechanical reliability of the termination.

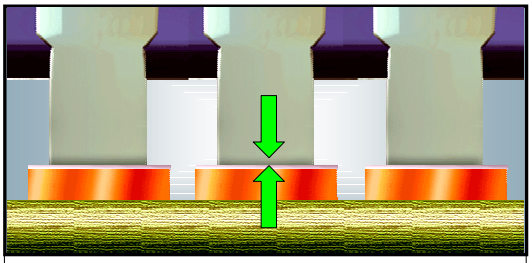
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The part is properly oriented to the land pattern, with each lead centered across the width of the land. Leads are planar. Fillets are shiny, concave, and evident on the front and back faces of the lead.

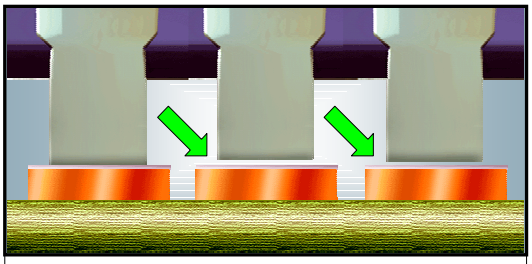
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.5]



PREFERRED
COPLANARITY

The preferred planarity of the lead to the land pattern area is with the component feet parallel to, and in full contact with, the pad.

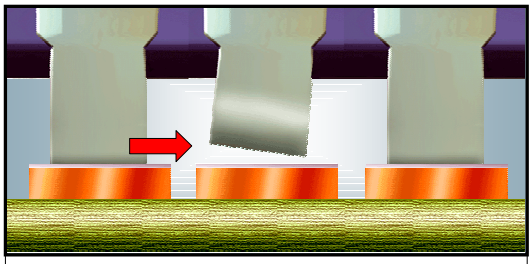
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]



ACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable non-planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

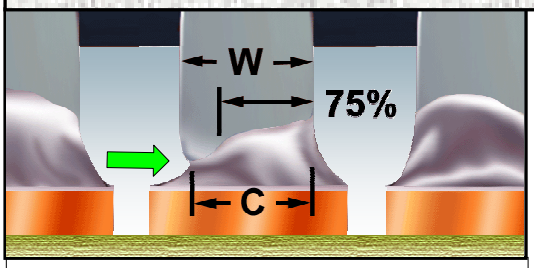
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.9.2.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COPLANARITY

Excessive non-planarity results in open or mechanically weak solder joints. Improper component lead coplanarity can produce solder bridging and open terminations.

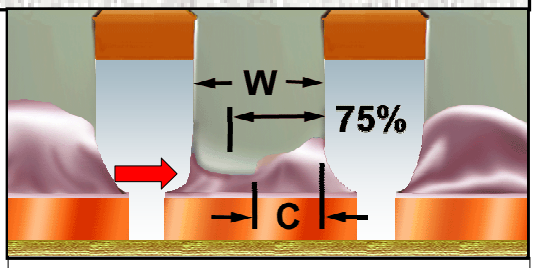
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.9.2.b.3]



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint (C) should be equal to or greater than the lead width (W), but shall not be less than 75% of lead width (W).

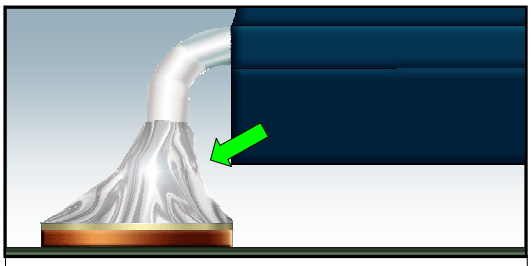
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint is less than 75% of the lead width (W).

Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
HEEL FILLET

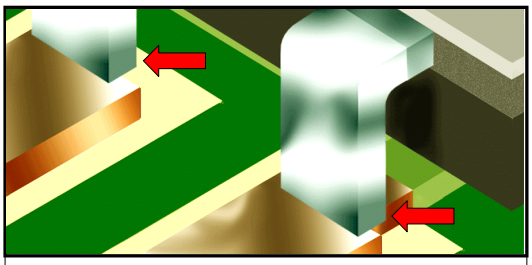
There shall be evidence of complete wetting and a positive wetting angle. The heel fillet shall extend across the entire width of the contact area.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.b.2]

UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING HEEL FILLET

There shall be evidence of complete wetting and a positive wetting angle.

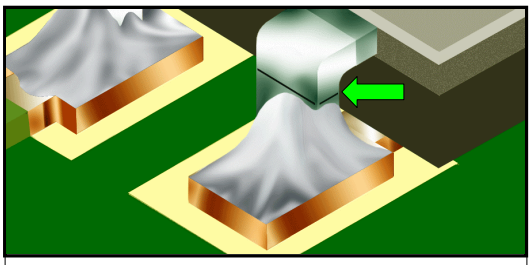
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.b.2]



MANDATORY
HEEL OVERHANG

Heel overhang is prohibited, as it will prevent the formation of the heel fillet (mandatory).

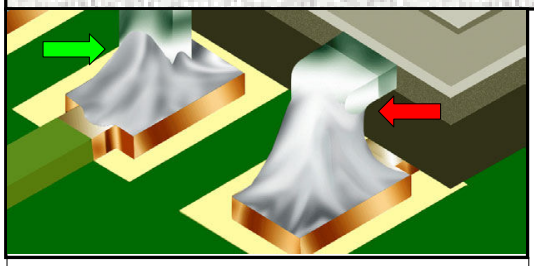
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.8.4], [12.9.5]



ACCEPTABLE
HEEL / TOE FILLET HEIGHT

The fillet height shall not exceed 75% of the lead height. The fillet shall be the full width of the contact area, exhibit a positive wetting angle, and the lead contour shall be visible.

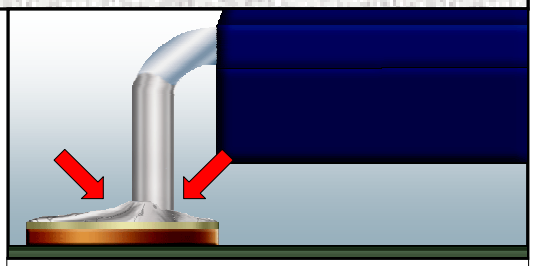
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a], [12.9.5.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE HEEL / TOE FILLET HEIGHT

The fillet height shall not exceed 75% of the lead height. The fillet shall be the full width of the contact area, exhibit a positive wetting angle, and the lead contour shall be visible.

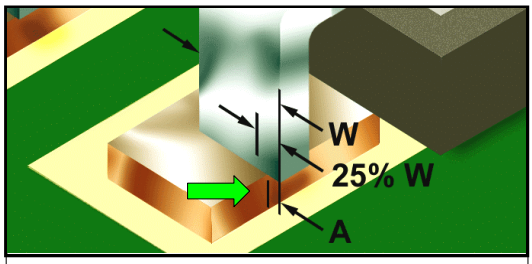
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.b.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT HEEL / TOE FILLET HEIGHT

The fillet height shall be sufficient to exhibit evidence of complete wetting.

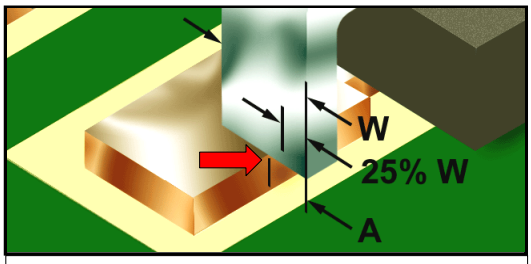
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a.1]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang shall not exceed 25% of lead width.

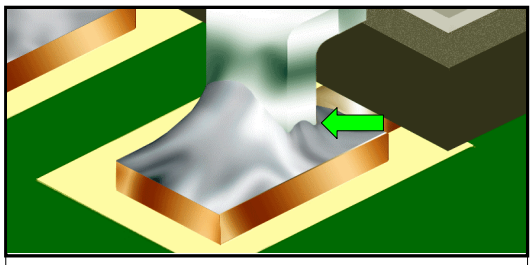
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.k]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

The lead is overhanging the termination pad in excess of 25% of the lead width.

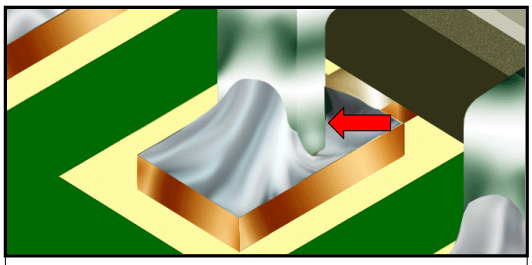
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.7], [12.9.5.b.1]



PREFERRED
SIDE JOINT FILLET *

The side joint fillet shall exhibit proper wetting to the component lead, a positive contour, and shall extend to the edges of the termination pad. (* See Nonwetting for special exclusion)

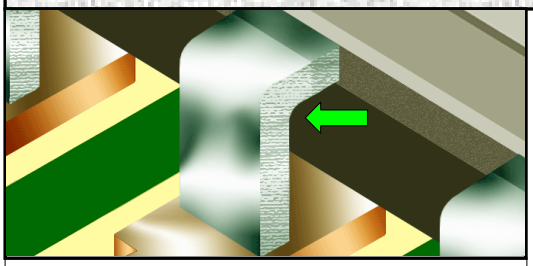
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.5.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)*

The side joint fillet does not exhibit proper wetting, or a positive contour. (* See Nonwetting for exclusion)

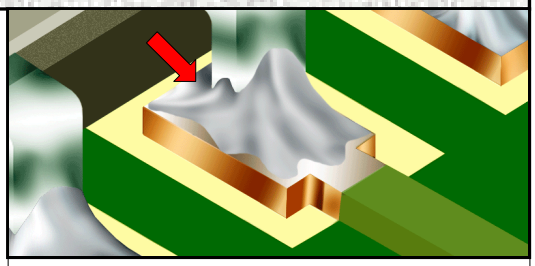
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.4]



ACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING
(SPECIAL EXCLUSION)

Leads not having wettable sides (edges) by design (such as leads stamped from pre-plated stock) are not required to exhibit side fillets.

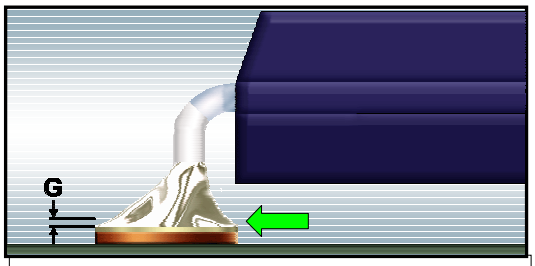
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WETTING

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, wet all elements of the connection with smooth flow lines, and shall extend to the edge of the pad.

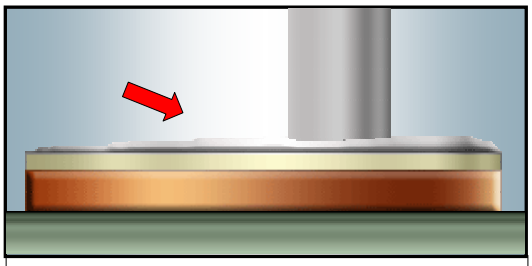
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a.1], [12.9.5.b.4]



PREFERRED
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet that extends over the complete periphery of the connection.

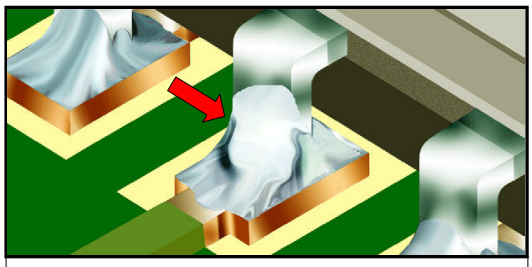
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.5.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER QUANTITY

The solder quantity shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet.

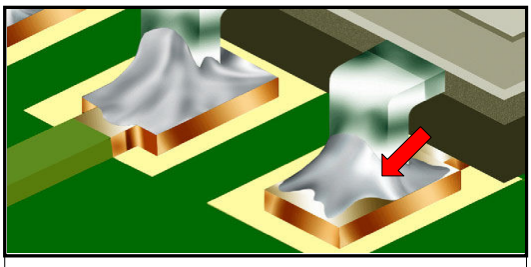
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a.1], [12.9.5.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder fillet may be convex, but shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, and the lead contour shall be visible.

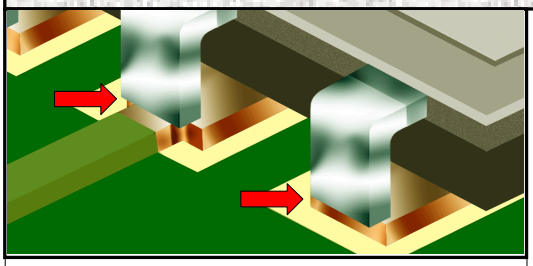
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SOLDER FILLET

The solder fillet shall exhibit complete wetting and extend over the complete periphery of the connection.

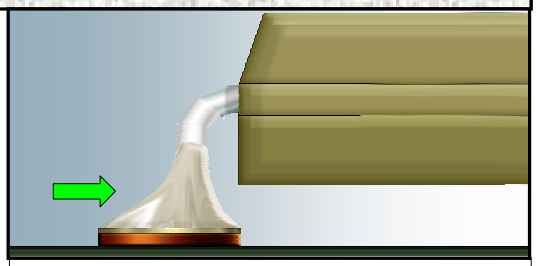
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.b.4]



MANDATORY
TOE OVERHANG

Toe overhang is prohibited.

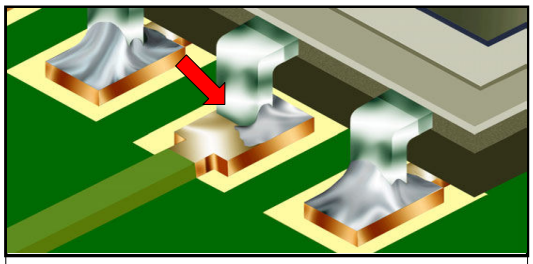
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.8.4], [12.9.5]



PREFERRED
TOE FILLET

There shall be evidence of complete wetting and a positive wetting angle.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.5.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING TOE FILLET

There shall be evidence of complete wetting and a positive wetting angle that extends over the complete periphery of the connection.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.5]

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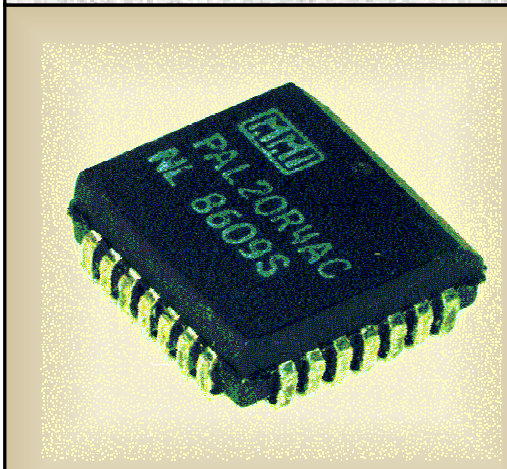
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

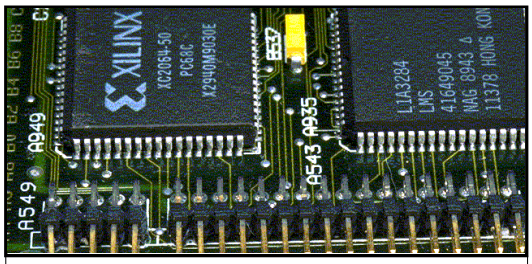
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
"J" LEADED PACKAGES



"J" LEADED PACKAGES

"J" Lead Packages have termination leads that are formed into a J pattern, with the lead's tail folding up and under the package body (instead of flat and outwards like a "Gull-wing"). "J" leaded terminations are considered to be the second most reliable termination style of the leaded SMT devices.

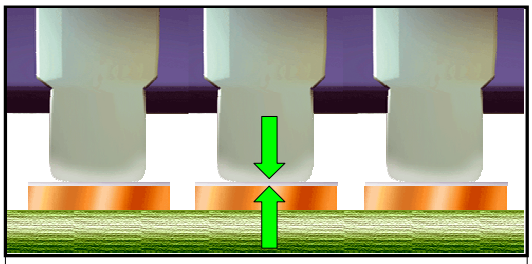
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The parts are properly oriented to the land patterns, with each lead centered across the width of the land. Leads are planar, fillets are shiny and concave, and a heel fillet is evident.

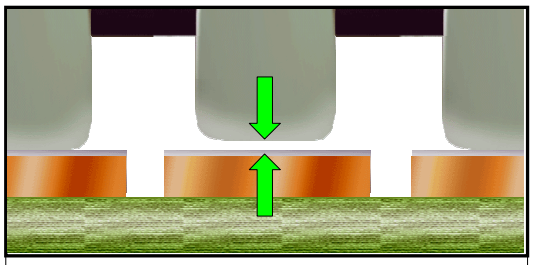
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.8.1], [12.9.3.a]



PREFERRED
COPLANARITY

The lead's foot should be parallel to, and in full contact with the termination pad.

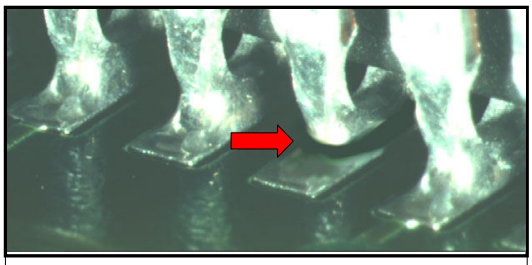
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]



ACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable variation in planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the termination pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

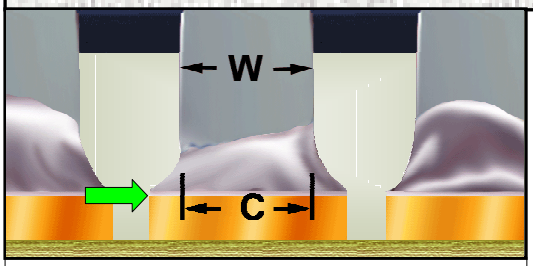
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.8.1.h]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COPLANARITY

Excessive non-planarity may result in open or mechanically weak solder terminations, excessive part tilt, solder contact with the component body, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

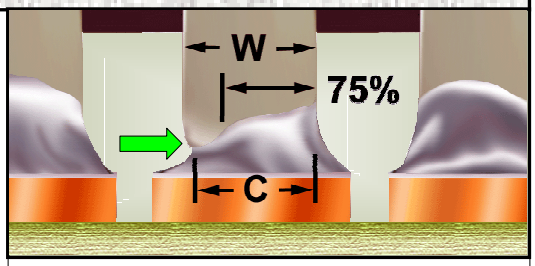
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.10]



PREFERRED
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint should be greater than or equal to the lead width (W).

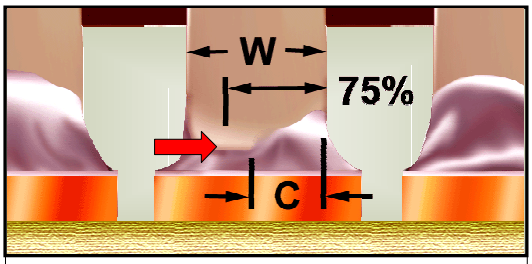
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint (C) shall be greater than or equal to 75% of the lead width (W).

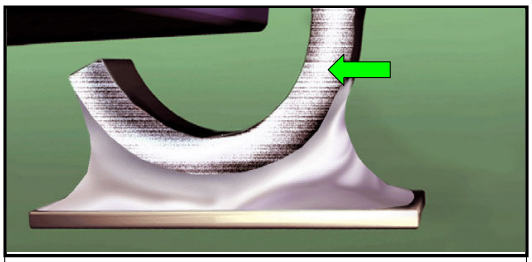
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint is less than 75% of the lead width.

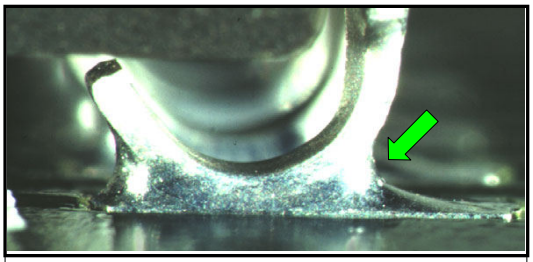
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING
(SPECIAL EXCLUSION)

Leads not having wettable sides (edges) by design (such as leads stamped from pre-plated stock) are not required to exhibit side fillets.

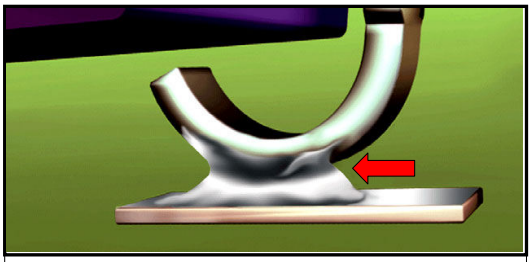
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and the contour shall be positive.

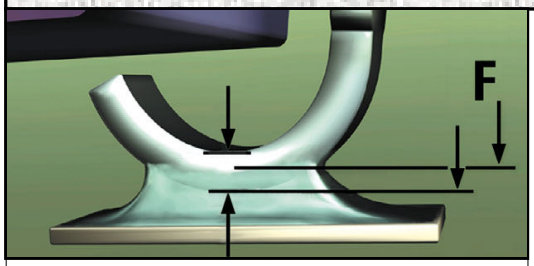
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.3.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and the contour shall be positive.

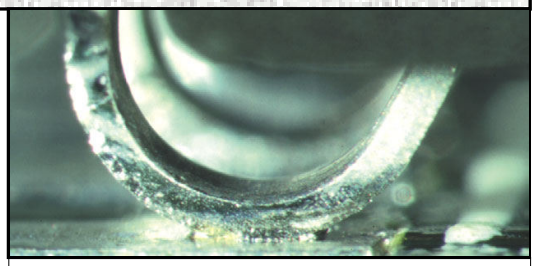
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.3.a.1], [12.9.3.b.6]



ACCEPTABLE
HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The fillet height shall not exceed 50% of the lead height. The fillet may be convex, but shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, and the lead contour shall be visible.

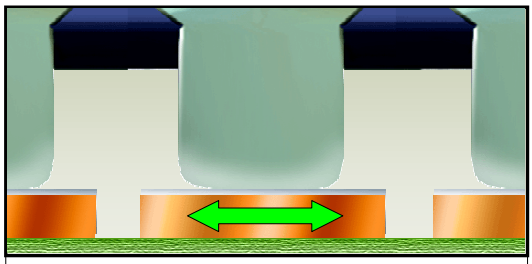
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT HEEL FILLET HEIGHT

The fillet height shall be equal to or greater than the minimum solder thickness, plus one (1) lead thickness (t).

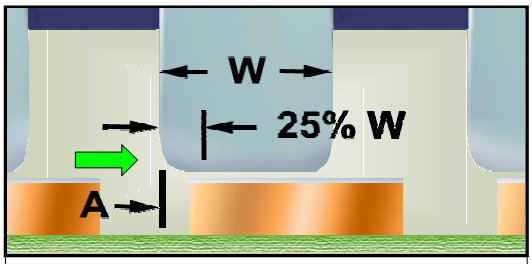
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.3.b.3], [12.9.3.b.6]



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

There should be no lateral / side overhang, the component lead should be centered on the land.

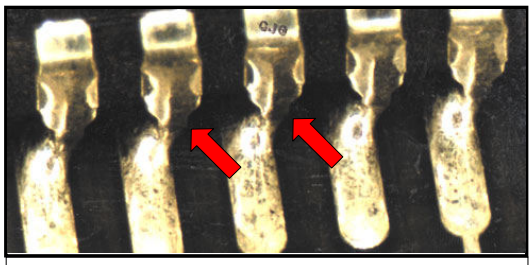
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.5]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang (A) shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

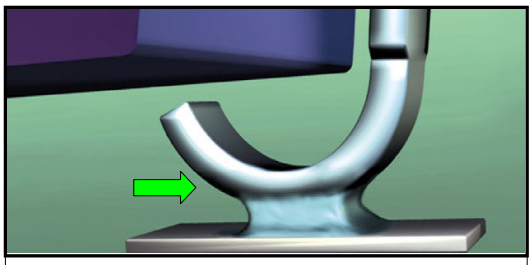
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

Lateral / side overhang shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

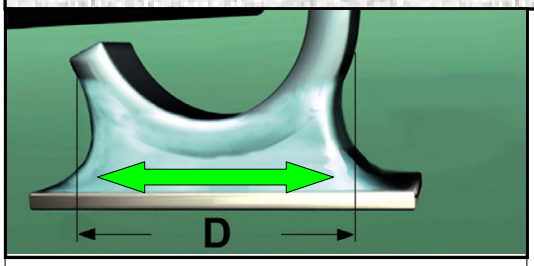
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.5], [12.9.3.b.1]



ACCEPTABLE
MISSING TOE FILLET

A toe fillet is not required. However, the termination shall exhibit complete wetting and a positive wetting angle between the lead and termination pad.

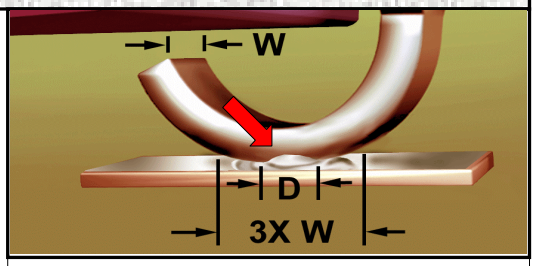
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)*

The side joint fillet shall be three times (3X) the lead width (W), and shall exhibit a positive contour. (* See Nonwetting for exclusion)

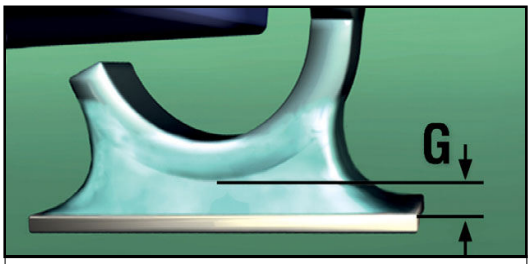
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet (D) shall be three times (3X) the lead width (W), and shall exhibit a positive contour.

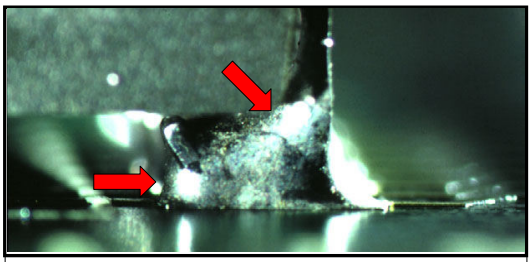
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted fillet.

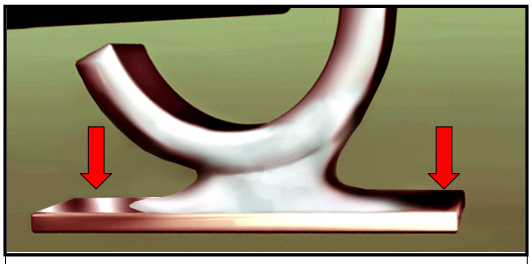
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder fillet may be convex, but shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, the lead contour shall be visible, and the solder shall not contact the component body.

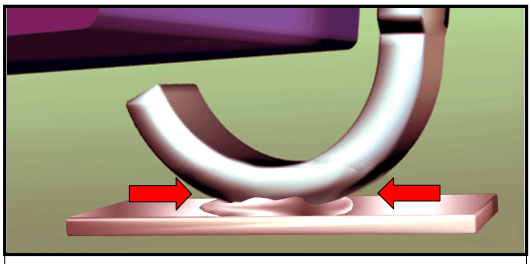
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.c], [12.9.3.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE SOLDER FILLET

The solder fillet shall extend to the land edge.

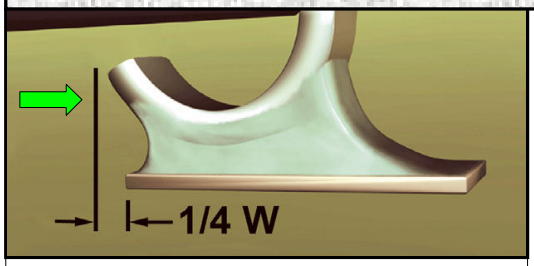
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER QUANTITY

The solder quantity shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted fillet.

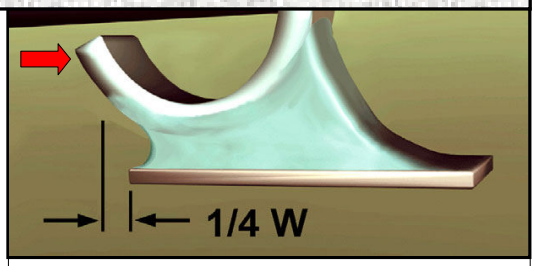
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.3.b.3]



ACCEPTABLE
TOE OVERHANG

Toe overhang shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

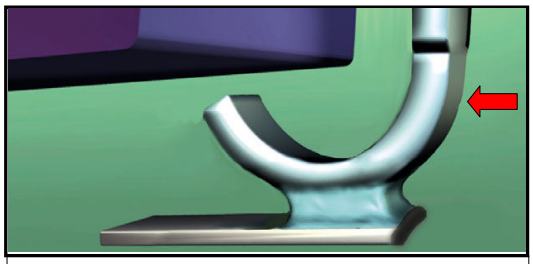
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE TOE OVERHANG

Toe overhang shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.a.5], [12.9.3.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
HEEL OVERHANG

Heel overhang is prohibited, as this condition routinely results in toe overhang (on the opposite side of the device), and may prevent the proper formation of a heel fillet.

Best Workmanship Practice

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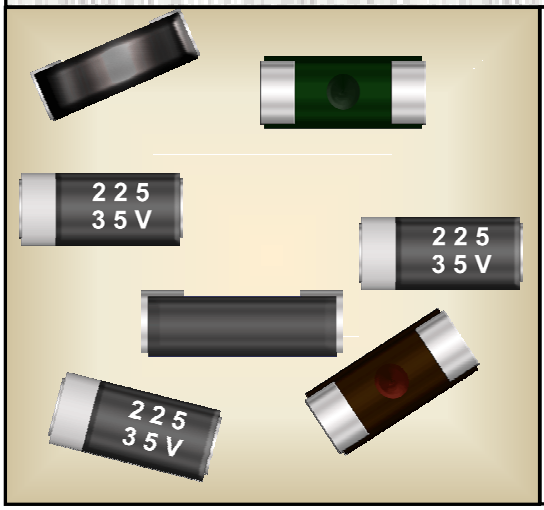
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
INWARD-FORMED "L" LEAD PACKAGES

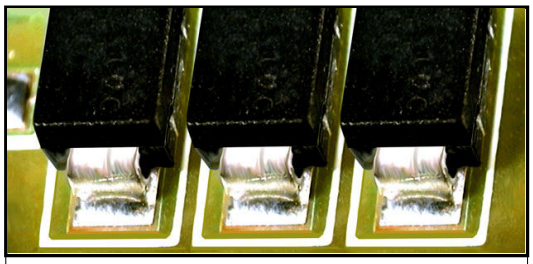


INWARD-FORMED "L" LEAD PACKAGES

Inward-formed "L" lead packages have leads that are formed in a configuration very similar to the outline of the letter "L", with the lead bent underneath the component package.

The "L" lead configuration is a shortened (both length and height) version of the "Gull-Wing" and the leads tend to be much stiffer, reducing co-planarity / planarity problems and offering a smaller "footprint".

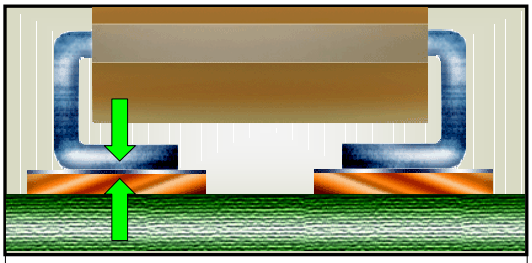
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The parts are properly oriented to the land pattern, with each lead centered across the width of the land. Leads are planar and fully wetted, fillets are shiny and concave, and heel fillet is evident.

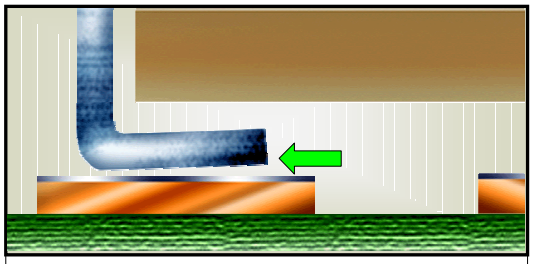
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.j], [12.6.2], [12.8], [12.9.4]



PREFERRED
COPLANARITY

The lead's foot should be parallel to, and in full contact with the termination pad.

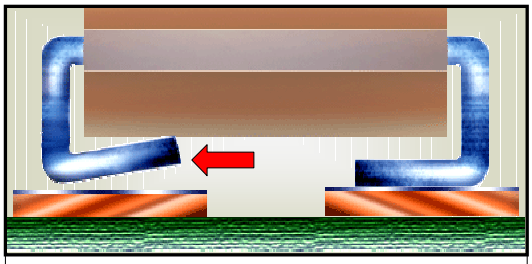
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]



ACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable variation in planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the termination pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

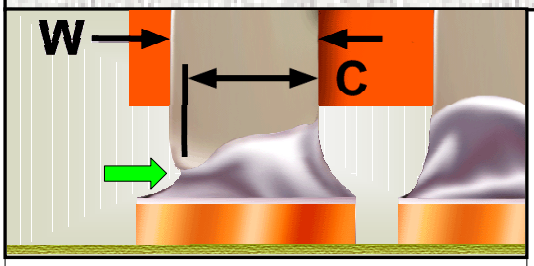
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.8.1.h]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COPLANARITY

Excessive non-planarity may result in open or mechanically weak solder terminations, excessive part tilt, solder contact with the component body, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

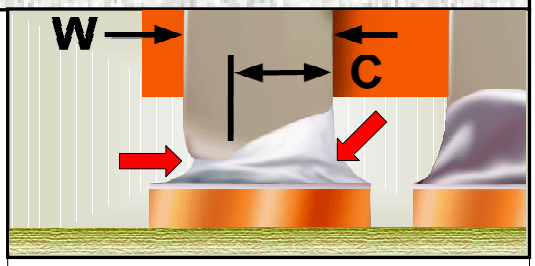
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.10]



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint (C) shall be greater than or equal to 75% of the lead width (W).

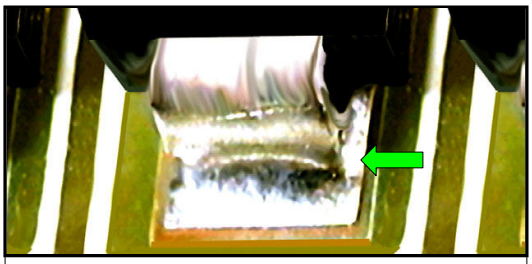
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the end joint is less than 75% of the lead width (W). This can result in a mechanically weak solder termination.

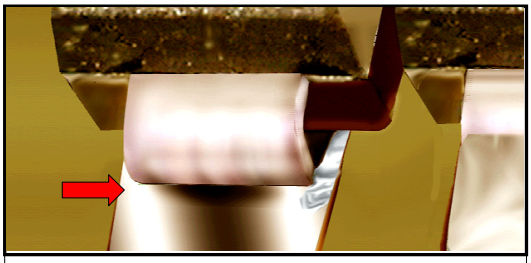
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and the contour shall be positive.

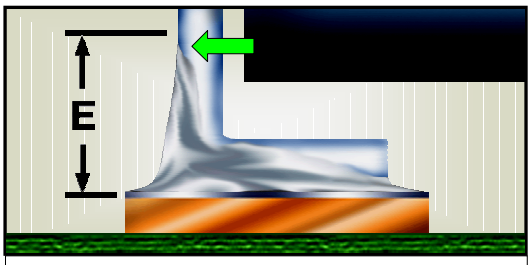
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory. A missing heel fillet is an indicator of improper process control (i.e.: improper positioning or solderability, insufficient solder quantity, etc.).

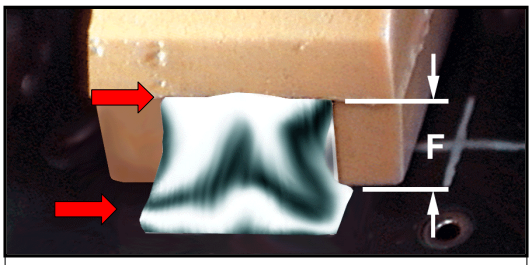
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.4.b.2]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (E)

Solder may extend upwards a maximum of 75% of the lead height. Solder shall not contact the component body on the inside of the lead bend, shall exhibit a concave fillet, and the lead contour shall be discernable.

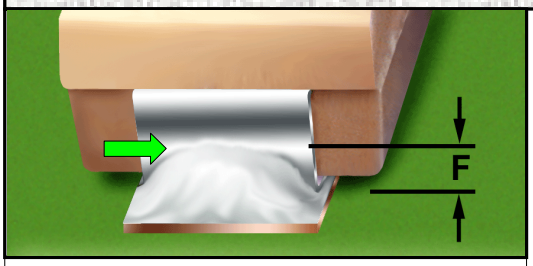
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.4.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The heel fillet extends to the top of the lead and exhibits a convex profile.

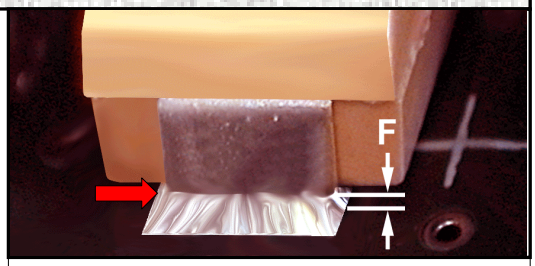
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.12], [12.9.4.b.3]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The heel fillet height (F) shall be sufficient to produce a fully wetted, concave fillet.

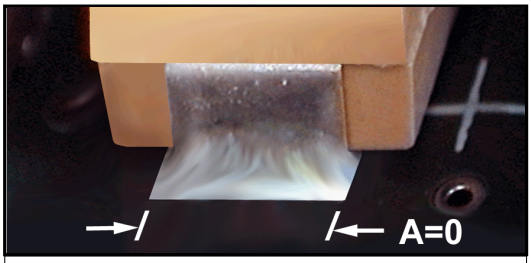
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The termination does not exhibit a fully wetted, concave heel fillet.

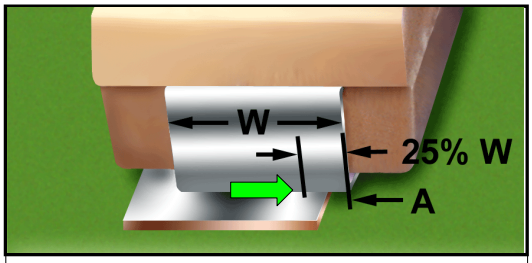
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.4]



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The target condition is no lateral / side overhang (A), with the component leads centered on the termination lands / pads.

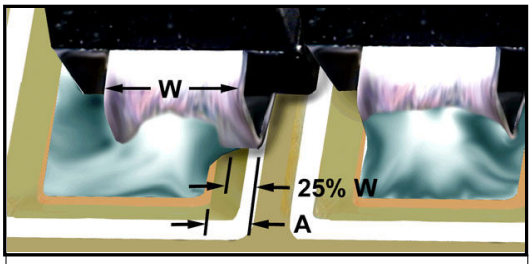
NASA-STD-8739.2 [8.7.4.j], [12.6.2], [12.8.1.h]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The component lead is overhanging the termination pad by less than 25% of the lead width (W), and the overhang condition does not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

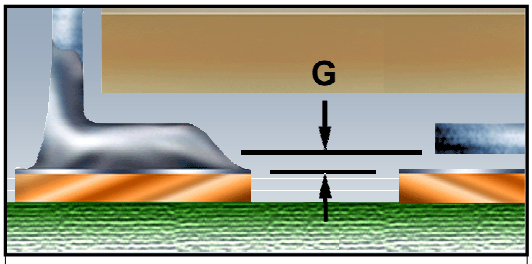
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.6], [12.9.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG (A)

Lateral / side overhang (A) shall not exceed 25% of the lead width (W), and shall not violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

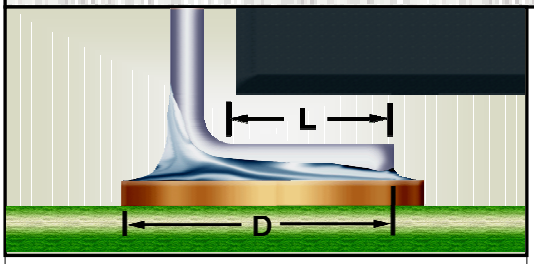
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.4.b.1]



PREFERRED
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall be sufficient to form a properly wetted, concave fillet which extends over the complete periphery of the connection.

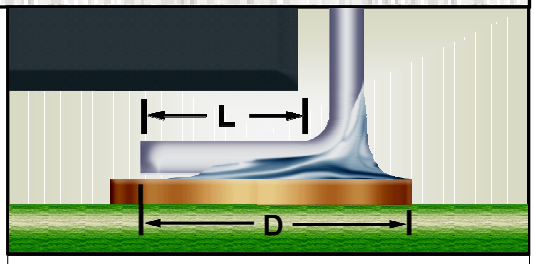
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.4.a]



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet shall be present, equal to the lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, and exhibit a positive contour.

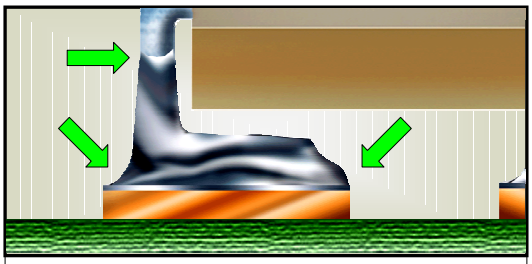
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

A side joint fillet less than 75% of the lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, or that exhibits flow lines is an indicator of a process problem.

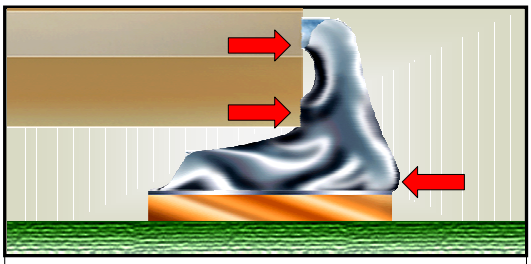
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM SOLDER

Solder quantity is at maximum, but does not contact the component body, or extend into the upper lead bend. The connection is well wetted, with a concave fillet between the lead and the land, and the lead contour is visible.

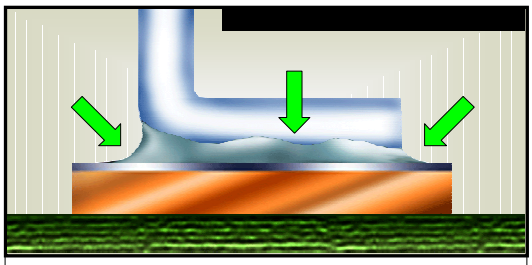
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.4.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

Solder has contacted the component body on the inside of the lead bend, extending beyond 75% of the lead height into the upper lead bend, and exhibits a convex fillet.

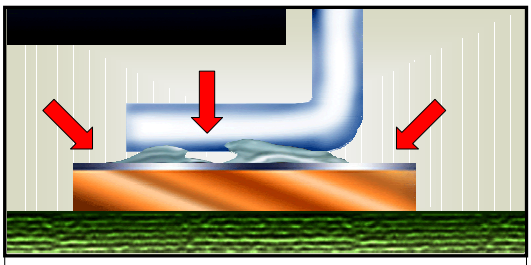
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.16], [12.9.4.b.3]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER

Solder quantity is minimum, with a concave heel fillet evident. The solder has completely wetted all elements of the termination, and extends to the periphery of the termination pads.

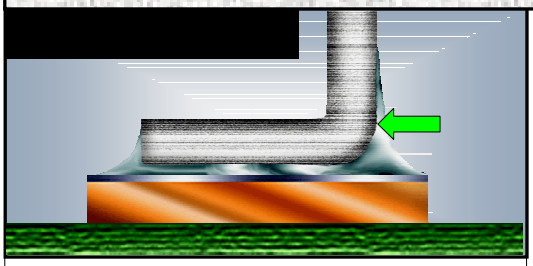
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.4.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

The solder quantity was not sufficient to form a properly wetted fillet to all portions of the component termination or extend to the land edges.

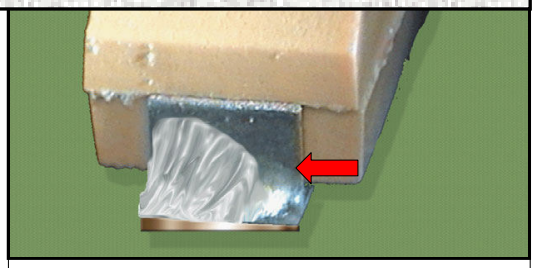
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.6], [12.9.4.b.4]



ACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING
(SPECIAL EXCLUSION)

Leads not having wettable sides (edges) by design (such as leads stamped from pre-plated stock) are not required to exhibit side fillets.

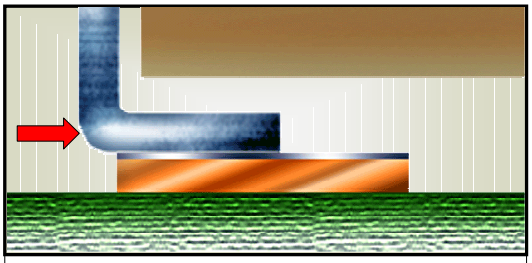
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WETTING

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, wet all elements of the connection, and shall extend to the edge of the pad.

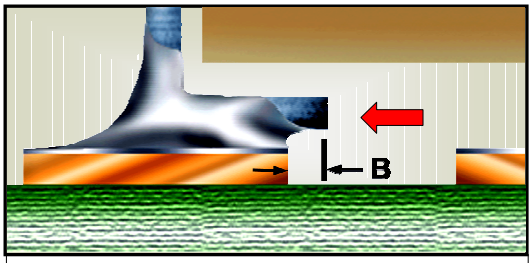
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.9.4.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
HEEL OVERHANG

Heel overhang is prohibited. Heel overhang is an indicator of improper positioning, and typically prevents the formation of a properly wetted, concave heel fillet.

Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
TOE OVERHANG (B)

Toe overhang is prohibited. Toe overhang may result in reduced electrical clearance between the termination pads.

Best Workmanship Practice

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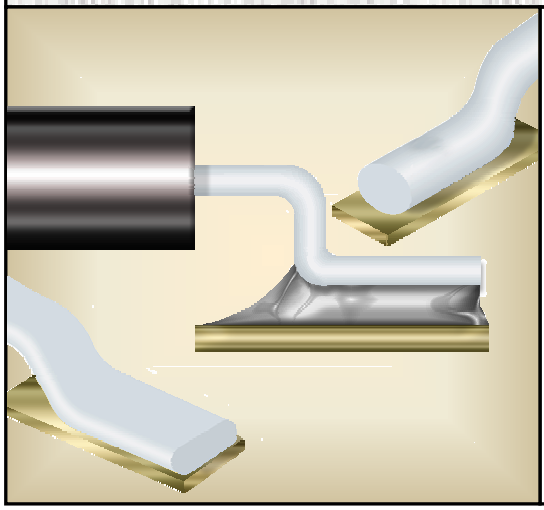
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

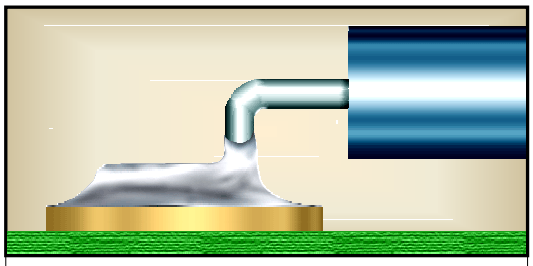
SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
LEADED PACKAGES / PARTS - ROUND OR FLATTENED "COINED" LEADS



LEADED PACKAGES / PARTS
ROUND OR FLATTENED (COINED) LEADS

This category encompasses discrete component and integrated circuit packages, which share requirements of through hole soldering (NASA-STD-8739.3) and surface mount technology soldering (NASA-STD-8739.2). In typical applications, the leads are formed and bent in a pattern configuration similar to "Gull-wing" devices. Leads may be in the original round cross-section, or flattened to increase surface contact to the land / pad.

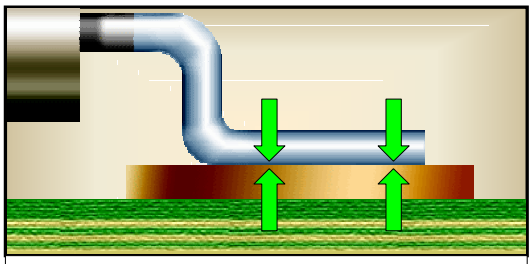
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The part is properly oriented to the land pattern, with each lead centered across the width of the land. Lead feet are in full contact with the termination pad, fillets are shiny and concave, and heel fillet is evident.

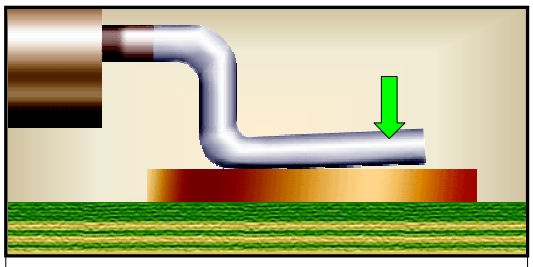
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.2.a]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6]



PREFERRED
COPLANARITY

The lead's foot should be parallel to, and in full contact with the termination pad.

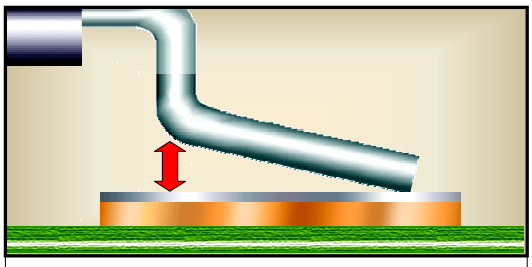
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5]



ACCEPTABLE
COPLANARITY

The maximum acceptable variation in planarity between any portion of the lead foot and the termination pad shall not exceed 0.26 mm (0.010").

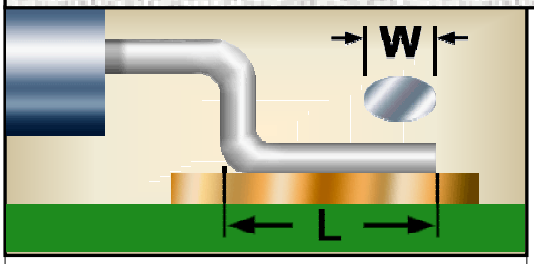
NASA-STD-8739.2 [7.1], [12.8.1.h]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER COPLANARITY

Excessive non-planarity may result in open or mechanically weak solder terminations, excessive part tilt, or violate minimum electrical spacing requirements.

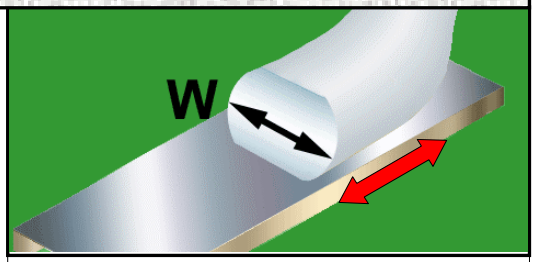
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.a.10], [12.9.2.b.3]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5], [13.6.2.a.22]



ACCEPTABLE
FOOT LENGTH (L)

The foot length (L) shall be a minimum of 3.5 times to 5.5 times the lead diameter / thickness (W), or 1.27mm (0.050 in), whichever is less.

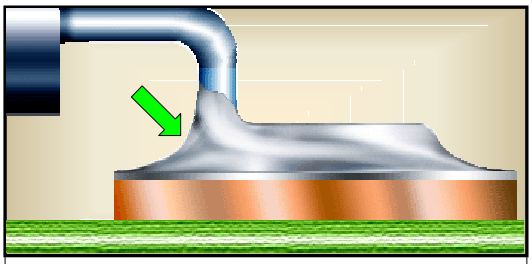
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER FOOT LENGTH

The foot length shall be a minimum of 3.5 times to 5.5 times the lead diameter (W) / thickness, or 1.27mm (0.050 in), whichever is less.

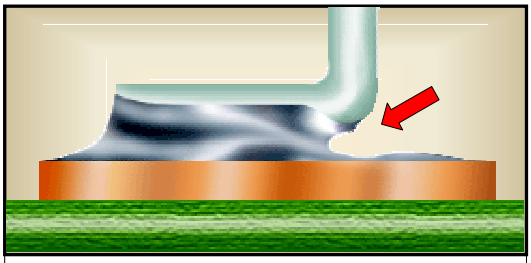
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1.a]



MANDATORY
HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and shall have a positive contour.

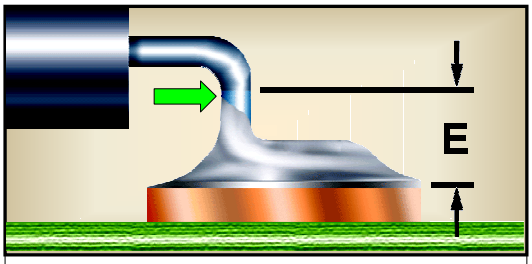
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING HEEL FILLET

A heel fillet is mandatory and shall exhibit a positive contour.

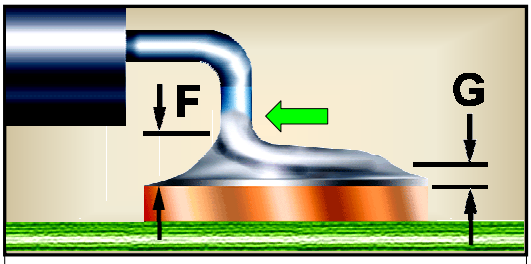
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.b.5]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1], [11.2.5]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (E)

Solder may extend through the lower bend radius, but shall not extend into the upper bend radius. Solder shall exhibit a concave fillet and the lead contour shall be visible.

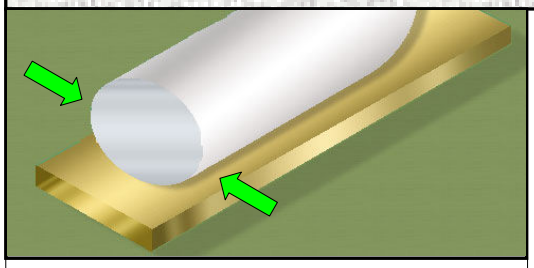
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1.b], [12.8.2.b.16]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [11.2.5.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM HEEL FILLET HEIGHT (F)

Solder shall be equal to the minimum solder thickness (G) plus one (1) lead diameter / thickness. Solder shall exhibit a concave fillet and the lead contour shall be visible.

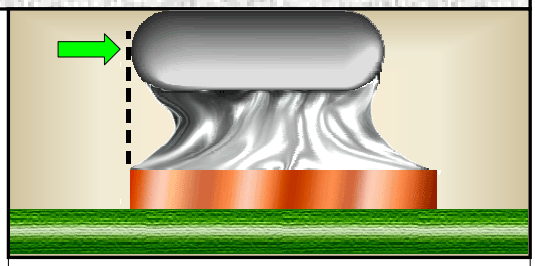
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

The component lead is centered on the land, with no lateral / side overhang.

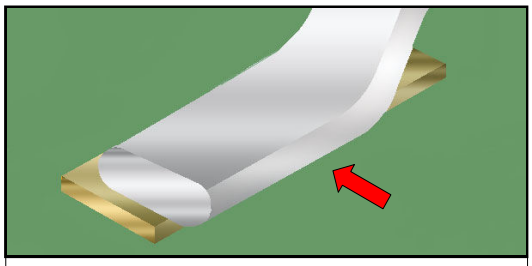
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1.b]



ACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

One edge of the lead may be flush with the edge of the solder pad.

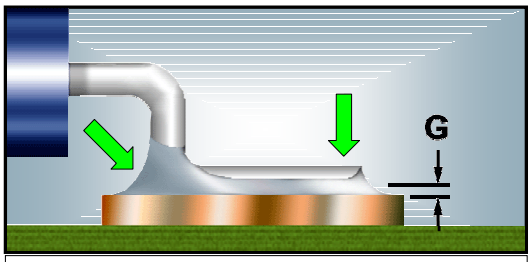
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
LATERAL / SIDE OVERHANG

The lead shall not overhang the land edge.

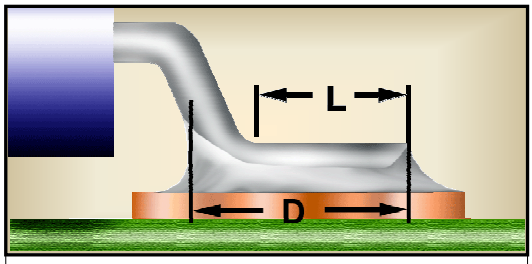
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1.b], [11.2.5]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

Terminations must have sufficient solder to form a properly wetted fillet, exhibiting a proper heel and toe fillet and a complete side fillet of minimum height.

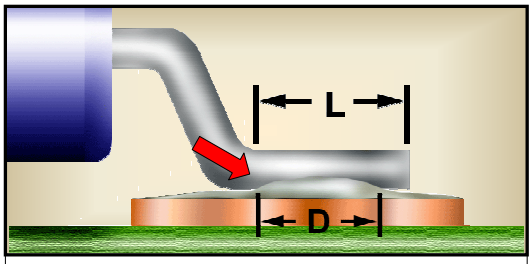
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.2.a.1]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet (D) shall be present, equal to the lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, and exhibit complete wetting and a positive contour.

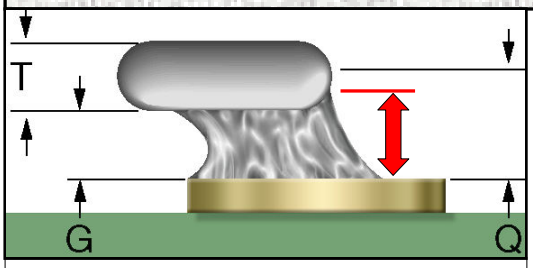
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SIDE JOINT FILLET (D)

The side joint fillet (D) shall be present, equal to the lead length (L) plus the heel fillet, and exhibit complete wetting and a positive contour.

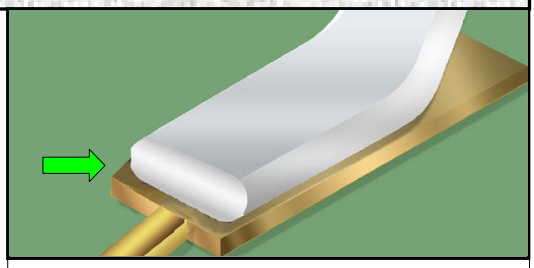
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
SIDE FILLET HEIGHT (Q)

The side fillet height (Q) shall be equal to or greater than the minimum solder thickness (G), plus 50% lead diameter / thickness (T). Image also shows side overhang.

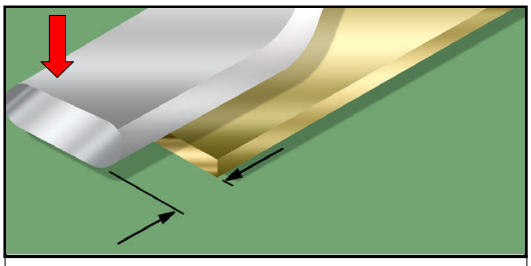
Best Workmanship Practice



MANDATORY
TOE OFFSET

The end of the lead shall be a minimum of 0.25 mm (0.010 in) from the end of the pad. Overhang is prohibited.

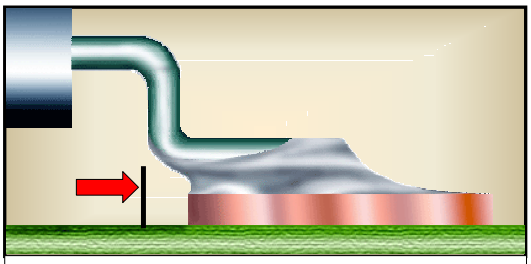
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
TOE OVERHANG

Toe overhang is prohibited.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [13.6.2.a.5]

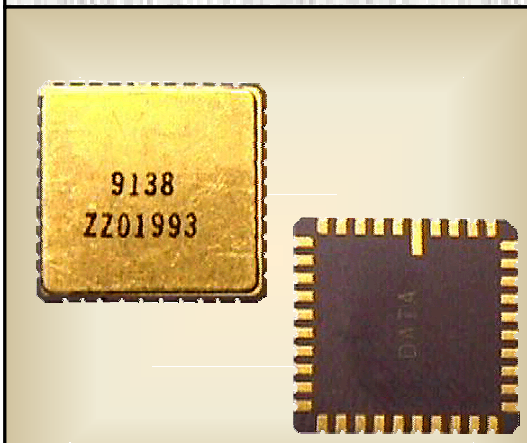


UNACCEPTABLE
HEEL OVERHANG

Heel overhang is prohibited.

NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.5], [13.6.2.a.5], [13.6.2.a.11]

SURFACE MOUNT TECHNOLOGY (SMT)
LEADLESS CHIP CARRIERS "LLCC"

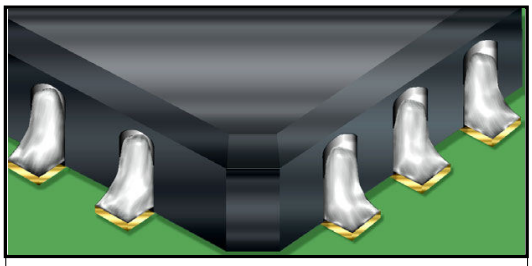


Leadless Chip Carriers

Leadless Chip Carriers (LLCC) packages are characterized by external connections consisting of metallized inset terminations (a castellation), making the package resemble a miniature castle.

The use of LLCC packages is not recommended for high reliability / spaceflight applications, due to the limited mechanical reliability of the terminations.

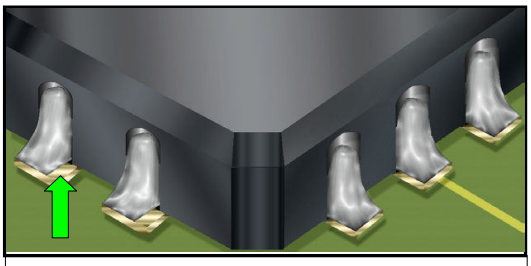
See Section 7.01 "Surface Mount Soldering, General Requirements", for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED

The part is centered with the castellations centered across the width of the land pattern area and properly oriented. Solder fillets exhibit complete wetting, proper thickness, and positive angle.

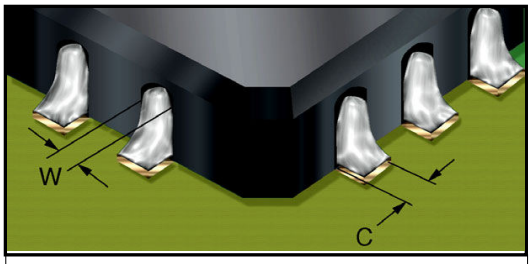
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE

The part is not centered, but the castellations are on the land pattern (there is no side overhang).

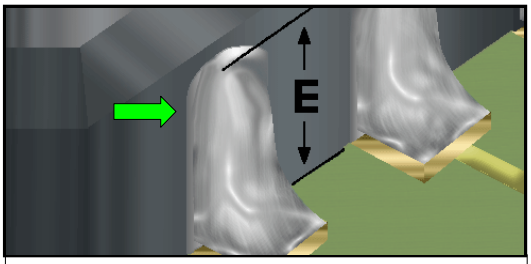
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE
END JOINT WIDTH (C)

The width of the solder joint shall be equal to the castellation width (W).

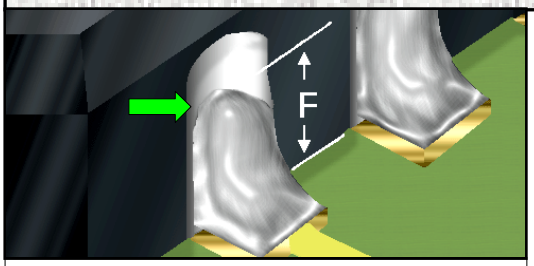
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MAXIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (E)

The fillet shall extend to the edge of the castellation metallization, and shall have a positive wetting angle.

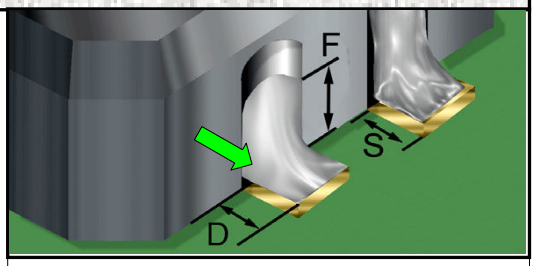
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.1], [12.9.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE
MINIMUM FILLET HEIGHT (F)

The solder fillet shall extend upwards at least 75% of the castellation metallization, and shall have a positive wetting angle.

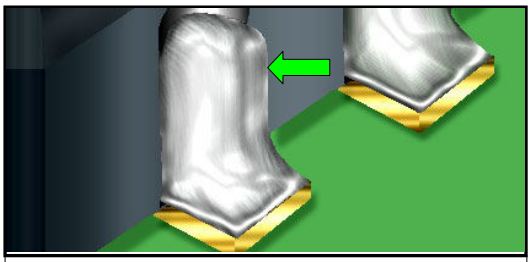
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.b.2]



ACCEPTABLE
SIDE JOINT LENGTH (D)

The length of the side joint (D) shall be 50% of the minimum fillet height (F), or the land length external to the package (S), whichever is less.

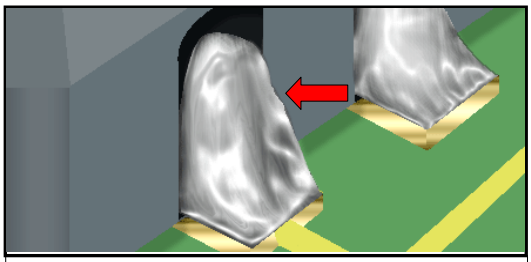
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.a]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER FILLET

The solder fillet may have a bulbous appearance, but shall be well-wetted and exhibit a positive angle at the castellation and pad terminus.

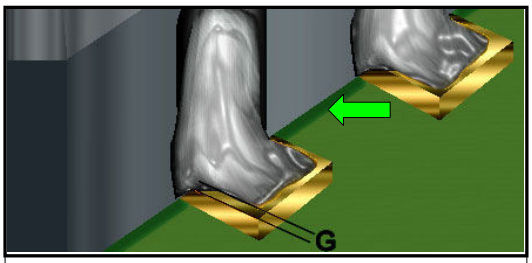
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESS SOLDER

The solder fillet shall not exhibit a negative wetting angle at the top of the termination and/or at the edge of the land area.

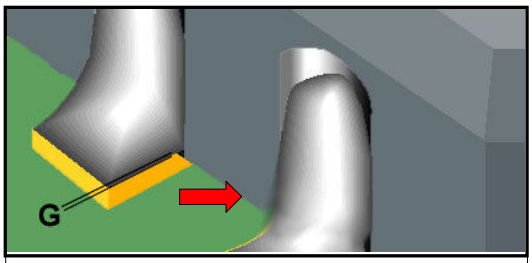
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.b.3]



ACCEPTABLE
SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

The solder thickness shall elevate the chip body be at least 0.127 mm (0.005 in.) above the printed wiring board surface, unless satisfactory cleaning can be demonstrated with reduced clearance.

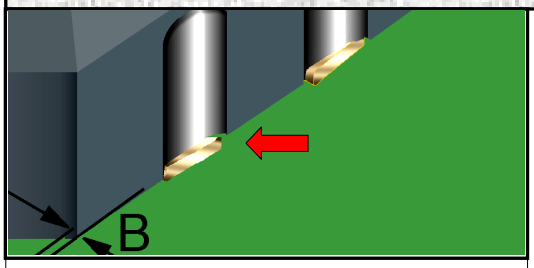
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
INADEQUATE SOLDER THICKNESS (G)

A spacing of less than 0.127 mm (0.005 in.) between the chip body and the printed wiring board surface may prevent removal of flux and solder fines from underneath the chip.

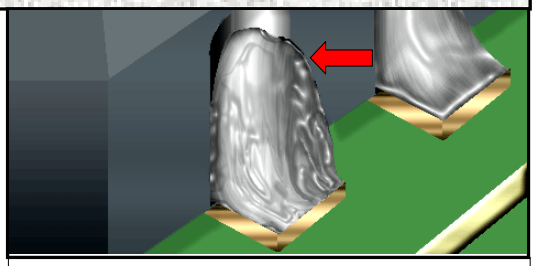
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.a.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
END OVERHANG (B)

End overhang of the edge of the chip body (with respect to the pad termination end) is not permitted.

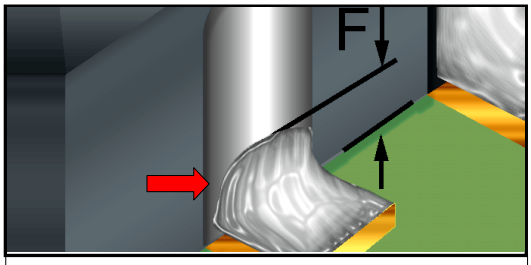
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.6.2.9]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WETTING

The solder fillet shall exhibit a positive wetting angle, wet all elements of the connection, and shall extend to the edge of the pad.

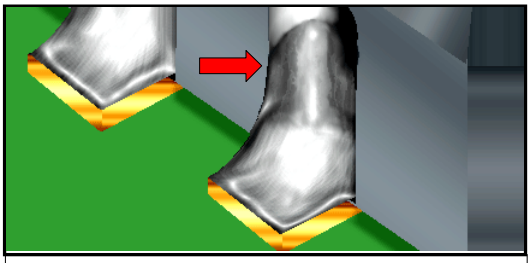
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.a.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SOLDER

The minimum fillet height (F) shall not be less than 75% of the castellation thickness.

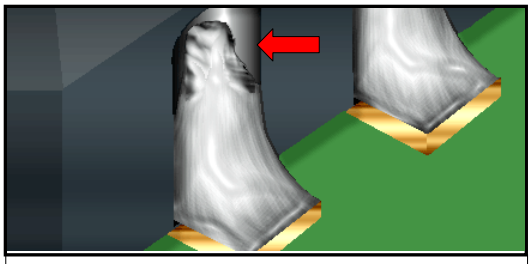
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.8.2.b.6], [12.9.7.b.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
NONWETTING

The fillet shall not exhibit non-wetting at the top of the solder fillet.

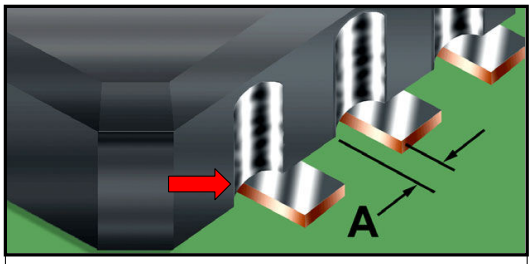
NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
POOR FLOW

The fillet shall not exhibit poor or uneven flow at the top of the solder fillet.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.b.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
SIDE OVERHANG (A)

The castellation shall not overhang the edge of the land.

NASA-STD-8739.2 [12.9.7.b.1]

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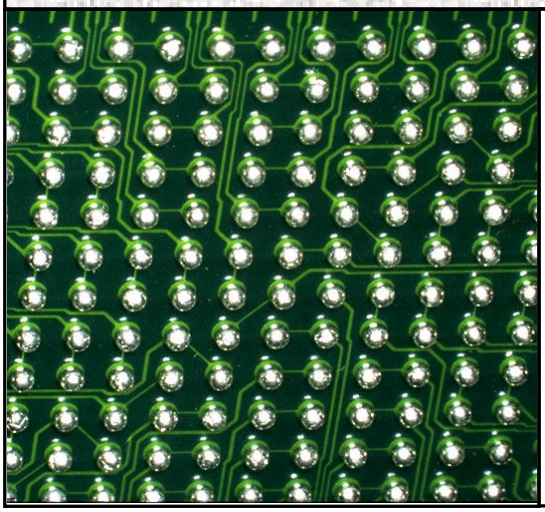
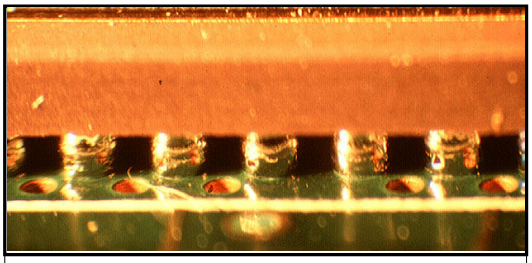
INTENTIONALLY BLANK.



BALL GRID ARRAY - BGA

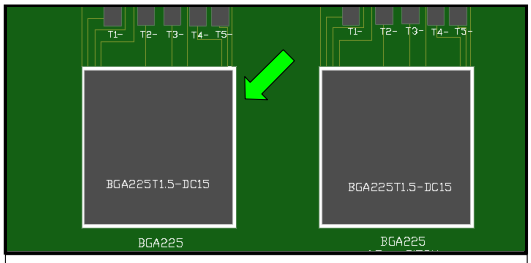
Ball Grid Array packages were designed to provide a device having high density input/output (I/O) array pattern interconnects, while minimizing device footprint and temperature coefficient (TC) problems. The array design features a low profile with shorter interconnections – resulting in superior electrical performance, speed, heat dissipation and noise reduction.

The placement of the interconnects on the bottom of the package limits visual inspection of the inner terminations, requiring the use of special microscopes or three-dimensional X-ray.



PREFERRED

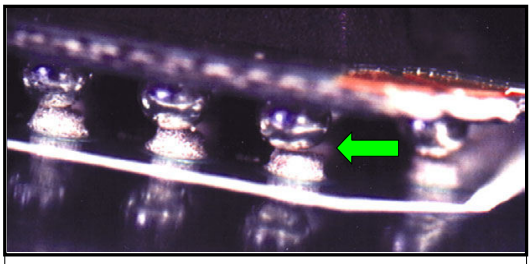
Solder terminations are smooth and rounded, with a clearly defined boundary. Terminations exhibit no voids, and are of the same diameter, volume, darkness and contrast. Registration is straight, with no pad overhang or rotation. No solder balls are present.



PREFERRED
FIDUCIAL ALIGNMENT

Alignment within the fiducial marks provides a rapid, visual indication of proper device alignment.

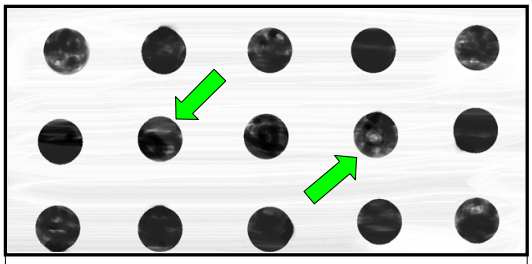
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PAD OVERHANG

Pad overhang is less than 25%.

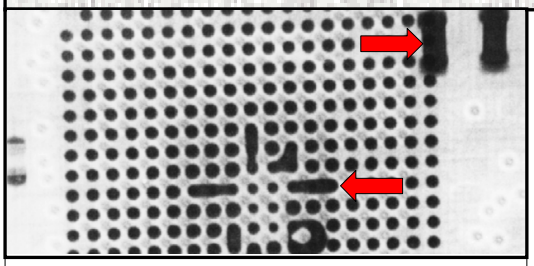
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
VOIDS

Terminations that exhibit less than 10% voiding in the ball-to-board interface are acceptable.

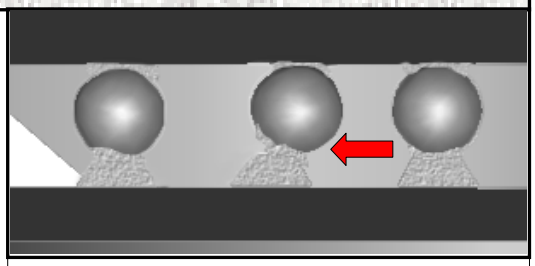
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
DARK SPOTS

Dark spots in the x-ray view, which cannot be attributed to circuitry (traces) or components underneath the BGA, shall be cause for rejection.

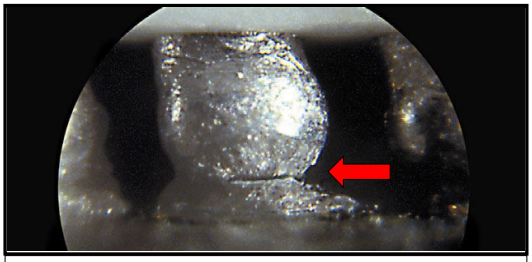
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE PAD OVERHANG

Pad overhang shall not exceed 25%.

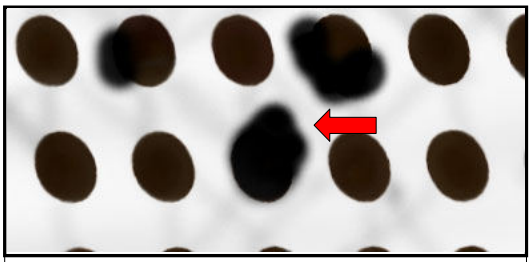
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FRACTURE

Terminations exhibiting fractures in the ball-to board interface are unacceptable.

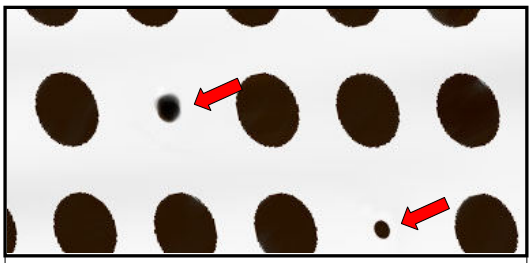
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISALIGNMENT

Misalignment is an indicator of improper process controls.

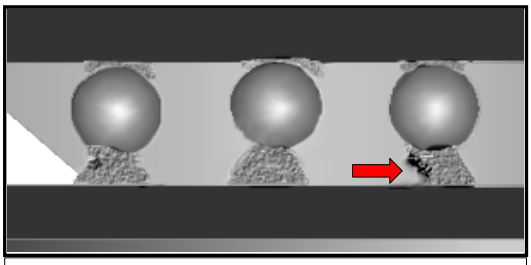
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING BALL

BGAs exhibiting missing solder balls shall be rejected.

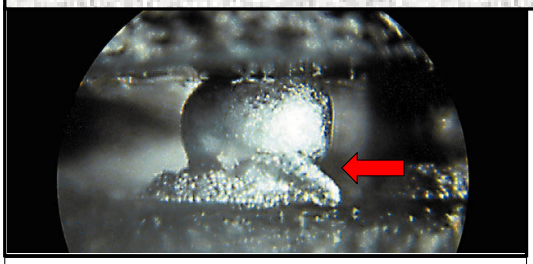
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING SOLDER

Missing solder is an indicator of improper process controls.

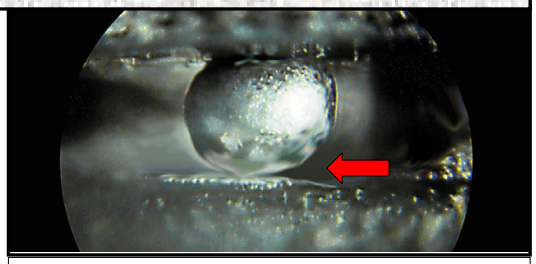
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
NON-REFLOW

Lack of proper reflow indicates poor process controls, typically insufficient heat during reflow.

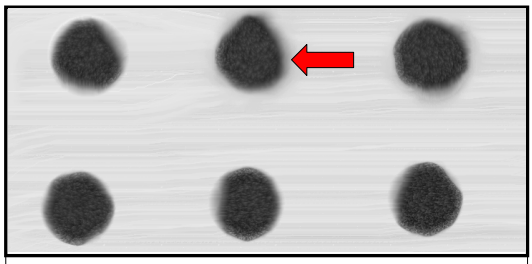
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
NON-WETTING

Non-wetting is an indicator of poor process controls.

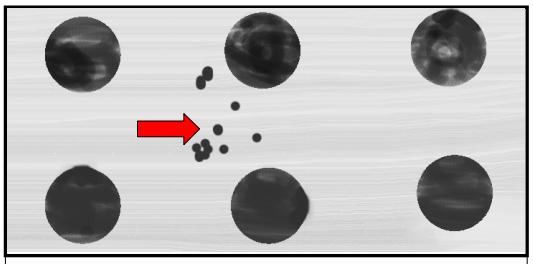
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
POOR DEFINITION

Solder joint boundaries exhibiting poor definition, appear fuzzy, or which blend in with the background, indicate insufficient reflow.

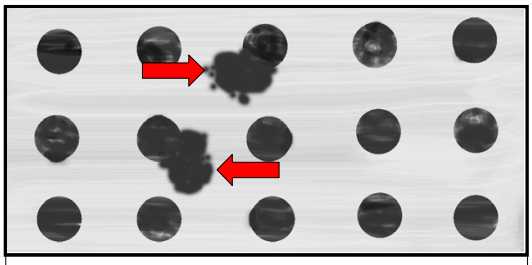
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER BALLS

Solder ball(s) that violate the minimum electrical clearance shall be cause for rejection.

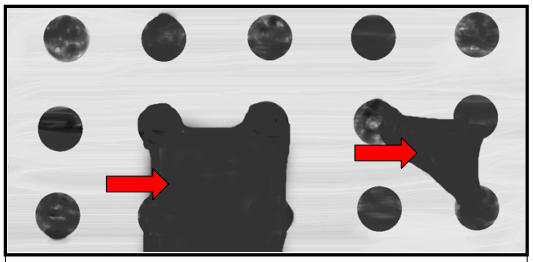
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER BALLS

Solder balls that bridge more than 25% of the distance between the leads shall be cause for rejection.

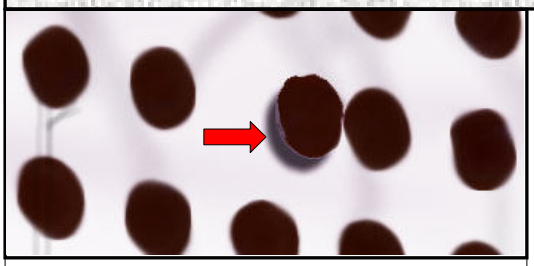
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER BRIDGE

Solder bridging is an indicator of improper process, typically excess paste deposit.

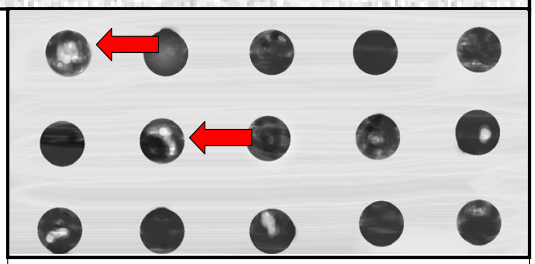
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
SOLDER OPENS

Solder opens are an indicator of improper process, typically insufficient paste deposit.

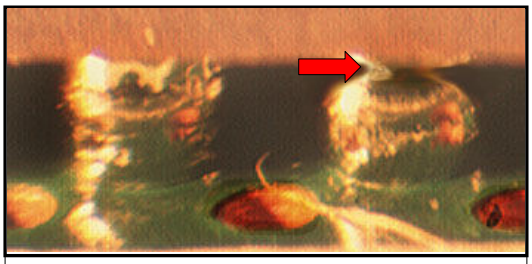
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
VOIDING

Terminations that exhibit 10% (or more) voiding in the ball-to-board interface shall be grounds for rejection.

Best Workmanship Practice

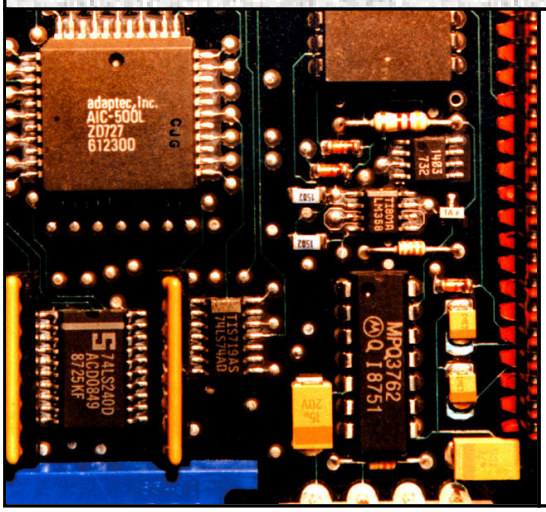


UNACCEPTABLE
POOR FLOW

The fillet shall not exhibit poor or uneven flow at the top of the solder fillet.

Best Workmanship Practice

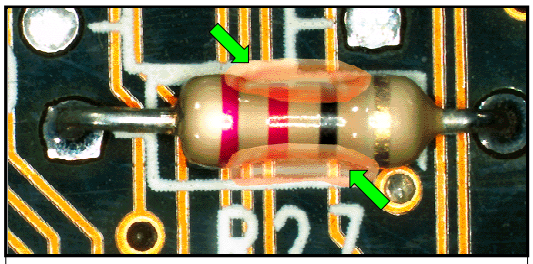
CONFORMAL COATING and STAKING (BONDING)
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

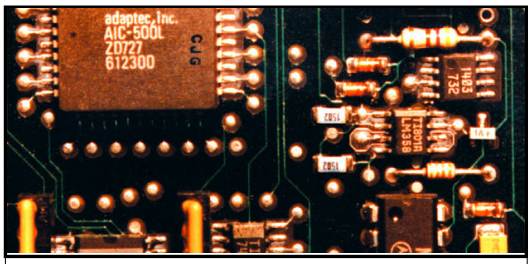
Reliable staking and conformal coating results from proper design, control of equipment, materials, work environments, and careful workmanship by trained and certified personnel.

The staking and conformal coating materials shall have dielectric properties that will meet the minimum circuit requirements in all anticipated environments. The materials shall be compatible, noncorrosive, and curable under conditions that will not change or adversely affect the performance or reliability of the parts on the PWA.



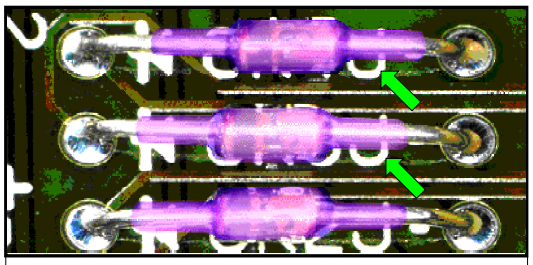
PREFERRED
ADHESIVE BONDING / STAKING

Adhesive bonding / staking material has been applied to the parts and locations specified by the approved engineering specification. Material quantity is sufficient to provide required support, but does not negate stress relief or mechanically compromise hardware reliability.



PREFERRED
CONFORMAL COATING

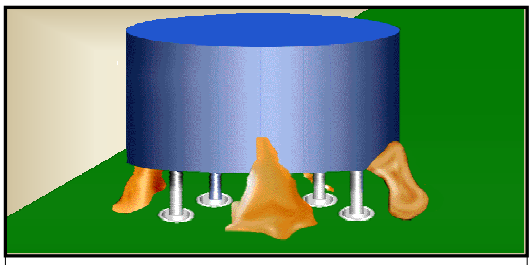
Coating covers all areas as specified on the engineering documentation. Coating exhibits uniform color, thickness, proper adhesion, is smooth, and tack free. No bubbles, entrapped contaminants or particles, excessive fillets, runs, drips, etc.



PREFERRED
GLASS-BODIED PARTS

Glass encased parts (i.e., diodes, etc.) shall be covered with transparent, resilient sleeving or other approved material, prior to staking or conformal coating with a rigid material.

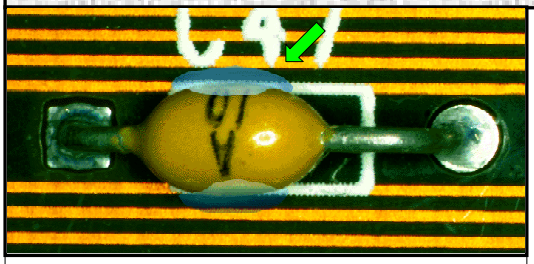
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.3.c], [11.6.3.e]
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.4]



PREFERRED
3.5 GM PER LEAD / 7 GM TOTAL RULE

Components weighing 7 grams (0.25 oz.) total, or 3.5 grams (0.12 oz.) per lead, shall be bonded to the mounting surface, in at least four evenly spaced places around component, when no other mechanical support is used.

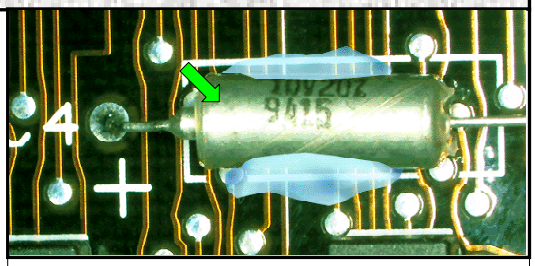
Best Workmanship Practices



PREFERRED
TANTALUM CAPACITORS

All axial-leaded solid-slug tantalum capacitors shall be staked.

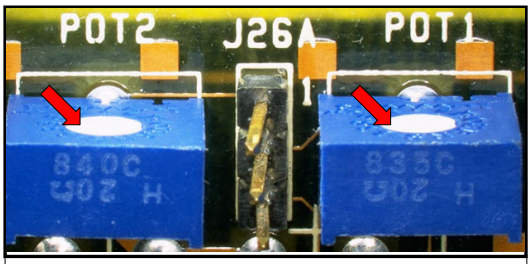
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.4], [11.6.3.d]



PREFERRED
UNINSULATED METALLIC-CASED COMPONENT

Metallic-cased components mounted over printed conductors or which are in close proximity to uncommon conductive surfaces shall be separated by insulation of suitable thickness.

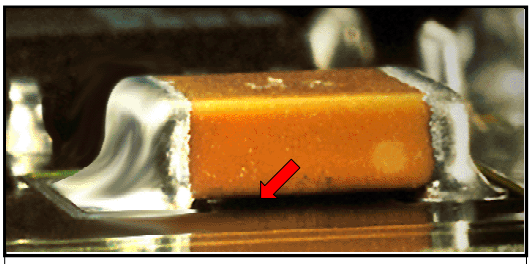
NASA-STD-8739.3 [8.1.2.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
ADJUSTABLE COMPONENTS

The adjustable portion of adjustable components (i.e., potentiometers, variable capacitors, etc.), as well as electrical and mating surfaces shall be left uncoated.

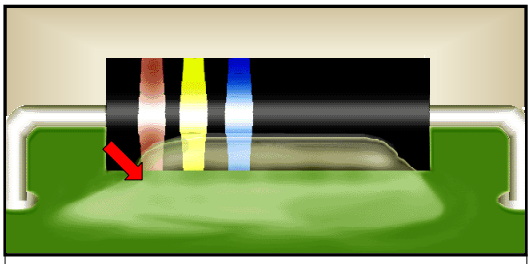
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING / UNDERFILL

Conformal coating and/or staking materials shall not be allowed to bridge between the bottom of ceramic-bodied DIPs, flatpacks, or surface mounted parts and the PWB.

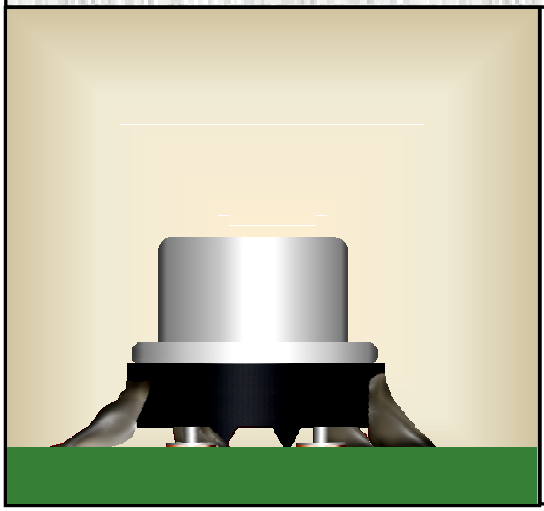
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1], [11.6.3.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONFORMAL COAT USED AS STAKING

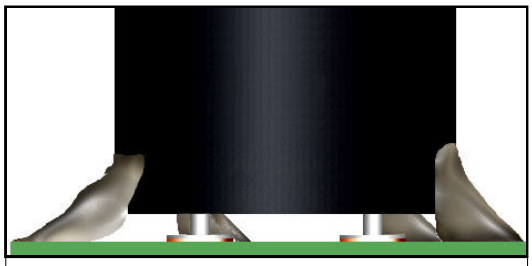
Conformal coating shall not be used as a staking material. Components should be properly staked prior to being conformally coated.

Best Workmanship Practice



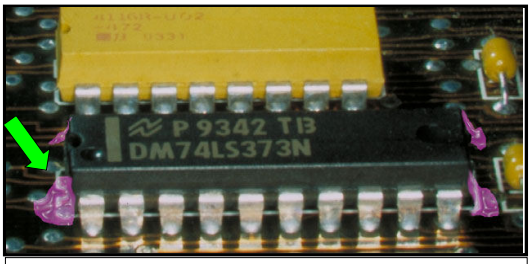
ADHESIVE BONDING / STAKING

The primary purpose for adhesive bonding / staking is to protect and support components and parts that may be damaged by vibration, shock, or handling. Bonding / staking material may either be resilient or rigid.



PREFERRED
ADHESIVE BONDING / STAKING

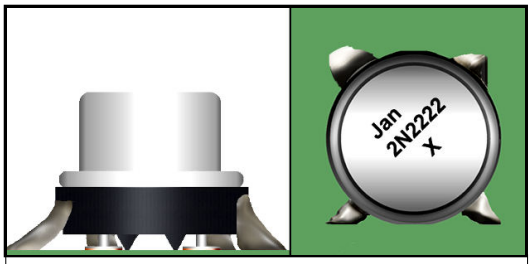
Adhesive bonding / staking material has been applied to the parts and locations specified by the approved engineering specification. Material quantity is sufficient to provide required support, but does not negate stress relief or mechanically compromise hardware reliability.



PREFERRED
FLEXIBLE MATERIALS

Flexible staking materials with a high thermal expansion coefficient shall not be applied where excessive stress may be damaging. As depicted, the staking material has been applied to the corners of the package.

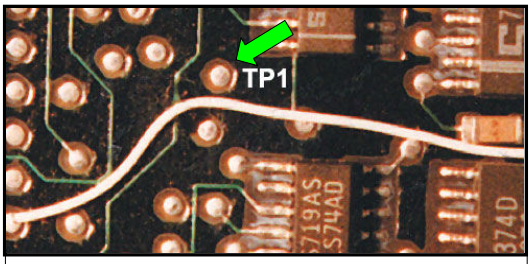
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



PREFERRED
PERIPHERY RULE

Staking material shall be of sufficient quantity to result in a minimum of 20% of the component's periphery being bonded.

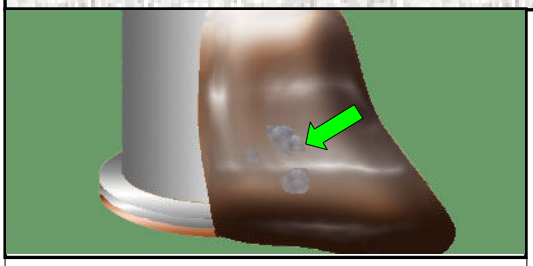
Best Workmanship Practice



PREFERRED
SOLDERABLE AREAS / TEST POINTS

Adhesive / staking material shall not be applied to areas that are to be soldered, or are to be used as test points. Contamination / solderability issue.

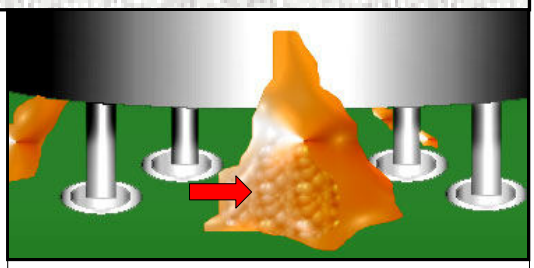
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
BUBBLES

Minor bubbles in the staking material fillet are acceptable, provided they do not reduce the fillet's cross-section below minimum requirements.

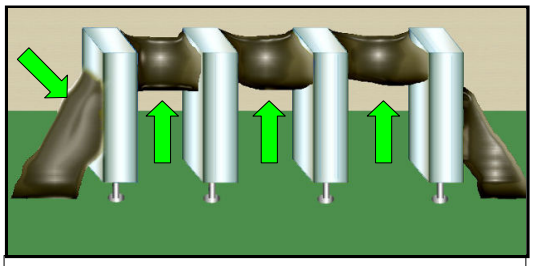
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
BUBBLES

Bubbles shall not reduce the cross-section of the fillet below minimum requirements.

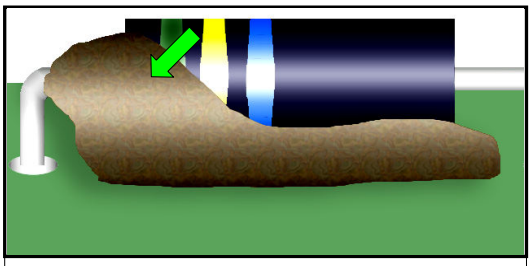
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING ARRAYS

Staking material may be applied across the top of an array of parts, provided the staking covers the entire width of the top of the parts, exhibits a fillet a minimum of 2/3 of part width on each end of the array, and stress relief is not negated.

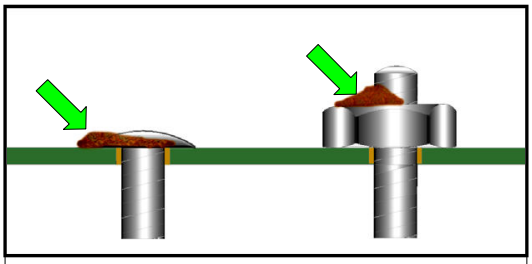
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE FILLET

Staking material exceeds 50% of the component diameter, but does not extend over the component, obliterate markings, or negate component lead stress relief.

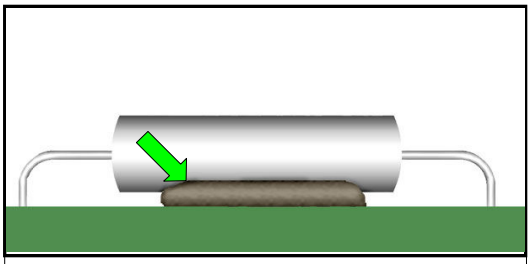
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1], [9.2.3.a]



ACCEPTABLE
FASTENER SPOT STAKING

Staking materials shall be applied to fasteners per engineering documentation.

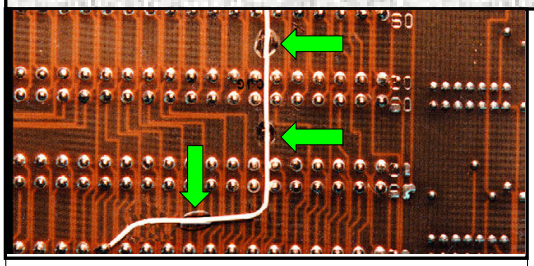
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
HORIZONTAL MOUNT AXIAL

Staking adheres to component a minimum of 50% of its length (L) and 25% of its diameter (D), on one side, and is centered. Proper wetting and adhesion to the part and substrate is evident.

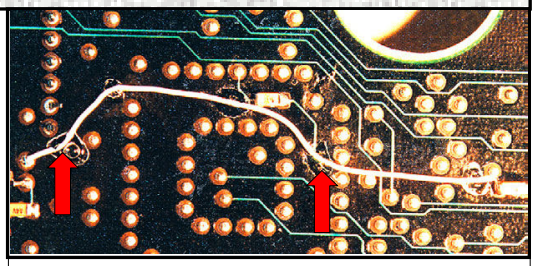
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
JUMPER WIRES

Jumper wires shall be staked every 2.54 cm (1 inch), at a minimum, and at every change of direction outside of the radius of curvature.

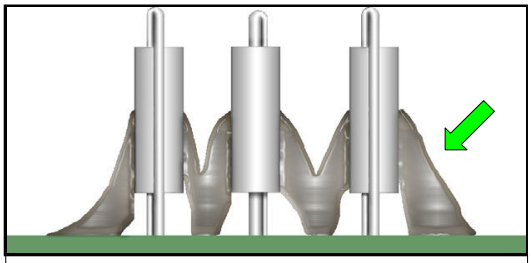
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.4], [11.6.2.c]



UNACCEPTABLE
BONDS IN WIRE CURVATURE

Staking along a jumper wire's radius of curvature can negate strain relief, resulting in reliability concerns.

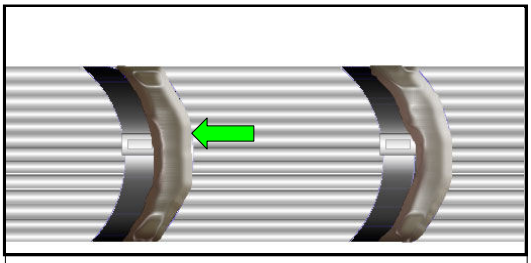
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.4]



ACCEPTABLE
MULTIPLE VERTICAL AXIALS

Staking adheres to each component for at least 50% of each component's length (L), is continuous between components, and adheres to each component a minimum of 25% of its circumference.

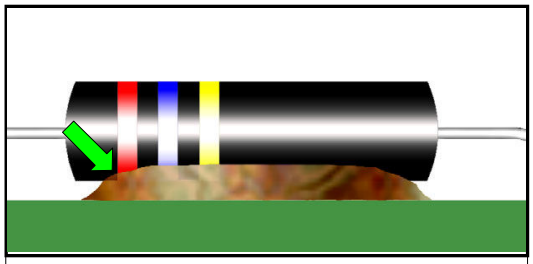
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SPOT TIES ON WIRE BUNDLES

Spot ties on wire bundles shall be staked per engineering documentation.

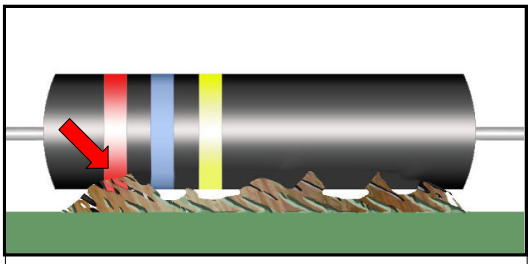
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
SUBSTRATE CONTACT

The staking material shall wet and adhere to a minimum of 50% of component length (L), and 25% of circumference, depending on mounting configuration.

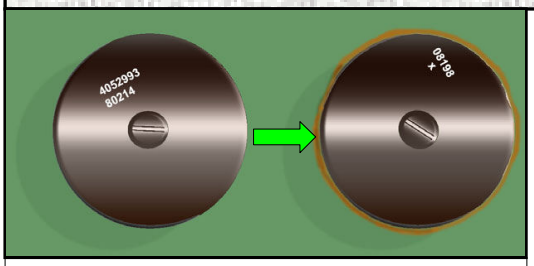
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT SUBSTRATE CONTACT

The staking material shall wet and adhere to a minimum of 50% of component length (L), 25% of circumference, depending on mounting configuration.

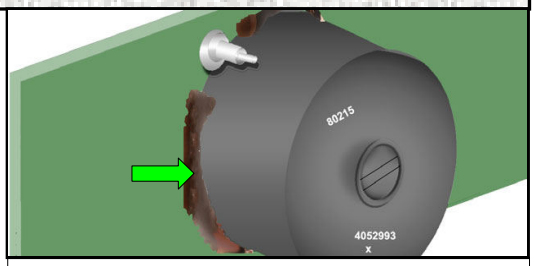
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
TOROID STAKING – CONTINUOUS FILLET

Staking of toroids and other large footprint components shall be sufficient to provide uniform support and prevent movement.

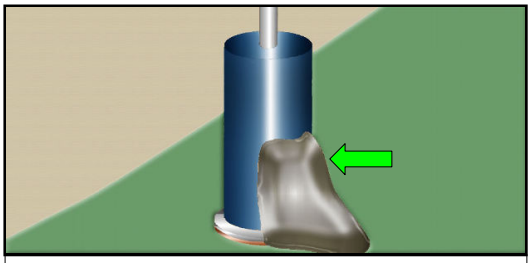
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
TOROID STAKING – DISCONTINUOUS FILLET

The staking fillet may be discontinuous if the application of material will interfere with adjustable components, test points, or serviceable mechanical components. The staking shall be sufficient to provide uniform support.

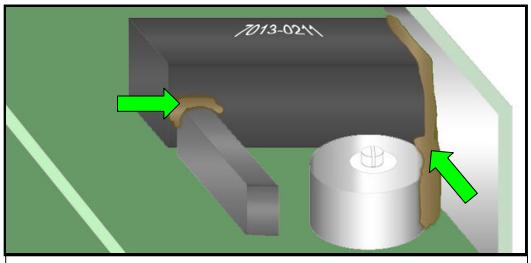
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
VERTICAL MOUNT AXIAL

Staking wets and adheres to the component and the substrate for at least 50% of part length (L) and 25% of part circumference. Proper wetting and adhesion to the part and substrate is evident.

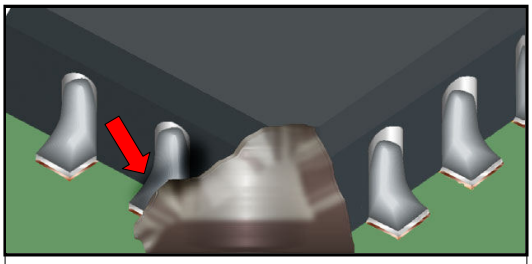
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



ACCEPTABLE
VIBRATION ISOLATION

Staking materials applied for vibration isolation / support shall be applied per engineering documentation.

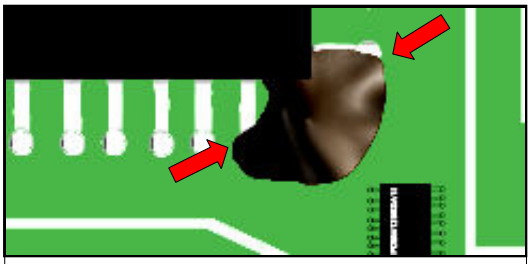
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
BONDS IN STRESS RELIEF

Staking material shall not negate stress relief of parts, enclose joints or part leads, or mechanically compromise the reliability of the hardware.

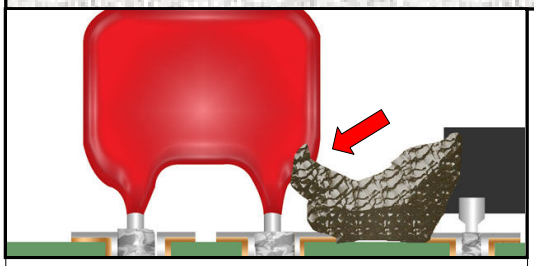
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.3]



UNACCEPTABLE
BURIED COMPONENT LEAD

Staking material shall not encapsulate a component's lead.

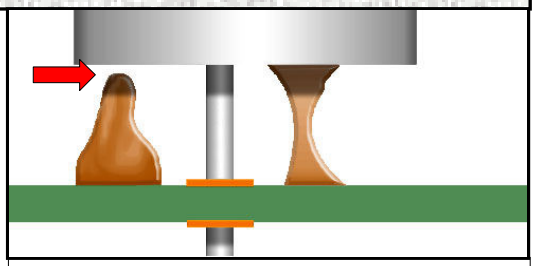
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.3.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTACT WITH GLASS-BODIED PART

Rigid staking material is in contact with the unsleeved area of a glass-bodied component.

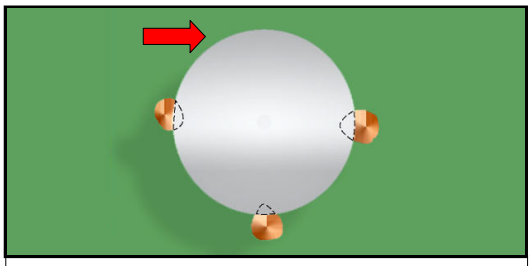
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.3.c], [11.6.3.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER WETTING

Bonds do not show evidence of proper wetting and adhesion to the bottom and side of the component and the mounting surface.

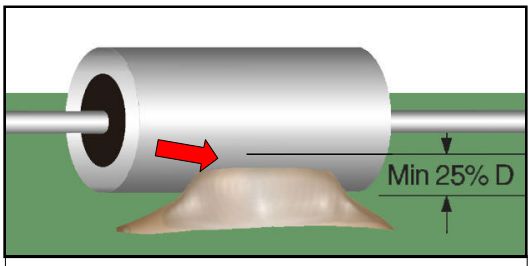
NASA-STD-8739.1 [9.2.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT BONDS

Bonds are less than specified in engineering documents and/or are less than a minimum of 4 equally spaced bonds for parts in excess of 7 gm (0.25 oz.) per lead.

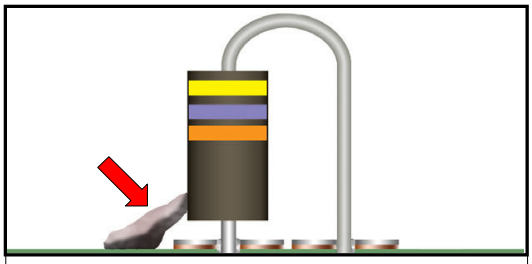
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT FILLET
HORIZONTAL MOUNT

Staking fillet height is less than 25% of the component diameter (D).

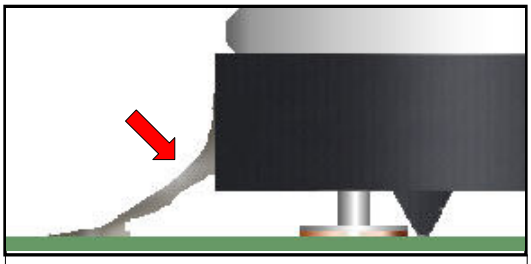
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT FILLET
VERTICAL MOUNT

Staking extends upwards less than 50% of the component length (L).

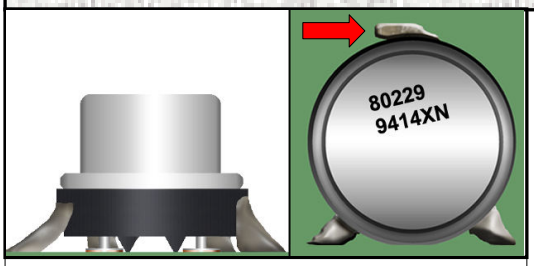
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT MECHANICAL SUPPORT

The staking material forms too thin a column to provide good mechanical support.

Best Workmanship Practice

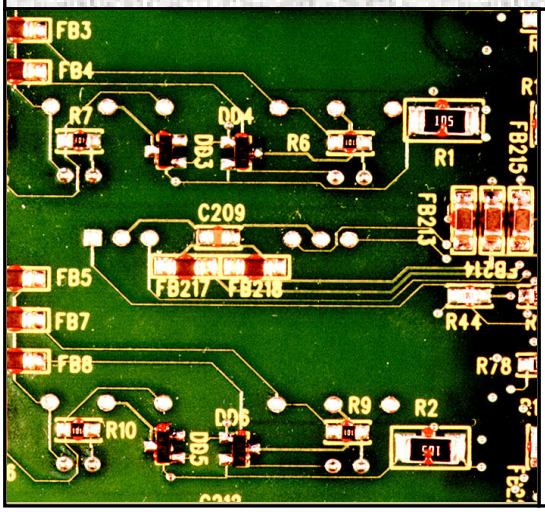


UNACCEPTABLE
INSUFFICIENT PERIPHERAL SUPPORT

Less than 20% of the total periphery of the component is bonded.

Best Workmanship Practice

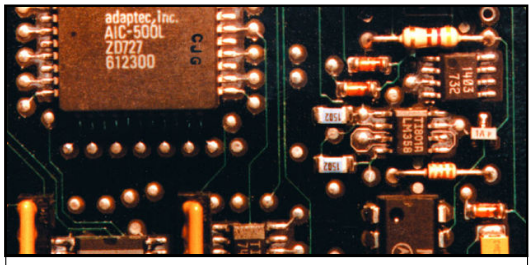
CONFORMAL COATING and STAKING (BONDING)
CONFORMAL COATING



CONFORMAL COATING

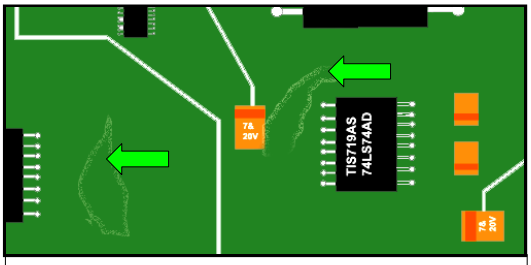
Conformal coatings are intended to provide electrical insulation and environmental protection to the PWA, eliminating or minimizing any performance degradation caused by humidity, handling, debris, and/or contamination.

Typical conformal coatings (i.e., Acrylic, Urethane, Epoxy, Silicone) can be applied in any standard vented environment by automatic / manual operations (i.e., spraying, brushing, dipping, or a combination thereof). High performance coatings (i.e., Paraxylene) require a highly controlled environment, and are applied by Chemical Vapor Deposition (CVD).



PREFERRED

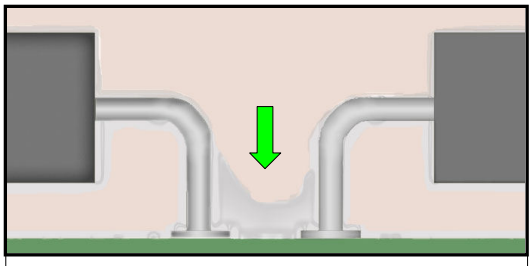
Conformal coating covers all areas as specified on the engineering documentation. Coating exhibits uniform color, thickness, proper adhesion, and is smooth, transparent, and tack free. No bubbles, entrapped contaminants or particles, excessive fillets, runs, drips, etc. Identification markings are visible.



ACCEPTABLE
BRUSH APPLICATION

The conformal coating is evenly applied, without forming excessive fillets or thick areas. Minor brush marks are acceptable, provided minimum thickness is maintained.

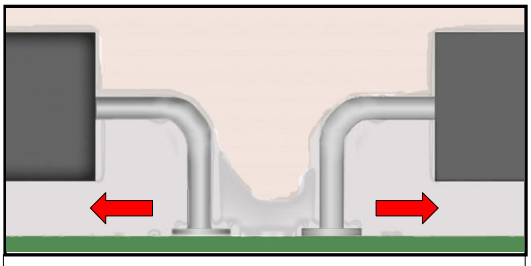
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.2.b]



ACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Conformal coating may bridge adjacent part leads, provided stress relief is not negated.

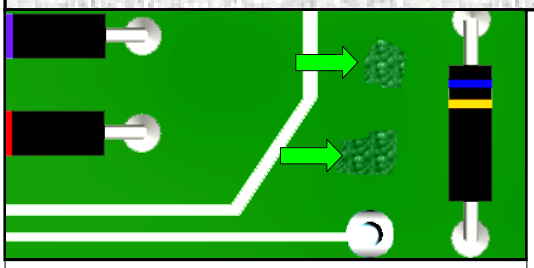
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.e], [11.8.2.j]



UNACCEPTABLE
BRIDGING

Coating shall not bridge between the bottom of ceramic-bodied DIPs or surface mount parts and the PWB, or between the part lead and the PWB, thereby negating stress relief.

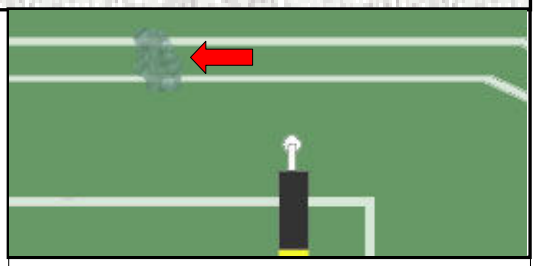
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.4.b], [11.8.3.b]



ACCEPTABLE
BUBBLES

Small bubbles, which do not bridge uncommon conductors, expose conductor surfaces, or exceed 0.76 mm (0.030 inch) in any dimension, are acceptable.

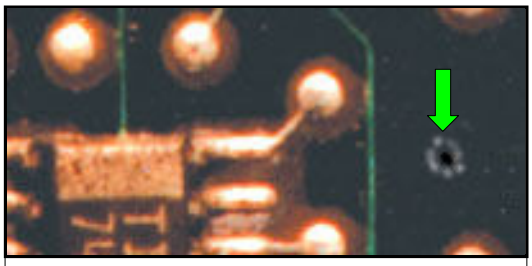
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
BUBBLES

Bubbles, which bridge uncommon conductors, expose conductor surfaces, or exceed 0.76 mm (0.030 inch) in any dimension, are not acceptable.

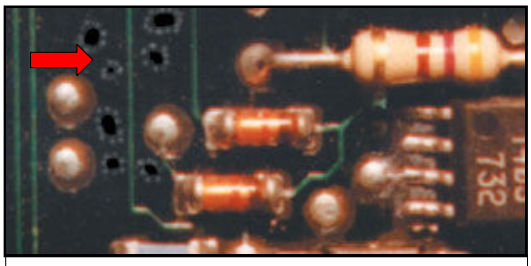
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.h], [11.8.3.i]



ACCEPTABLE
FISHEYES

Fisheyes shall not exceed 5% of the surface area.

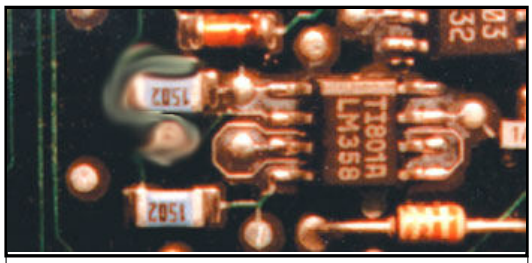
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
FISHEYES

Fisheyes shall not exceed 5% of the surface area.

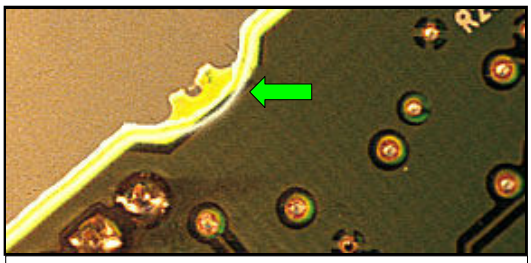
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.k]



ACCEPTABLE
DIP APPLICATION

The conformal coating exhibits complete coverage. Slightly uneven thickness, uneven filleting around parts, run contours, and edge loading are acceptable, provided minimum thickness is maintained.

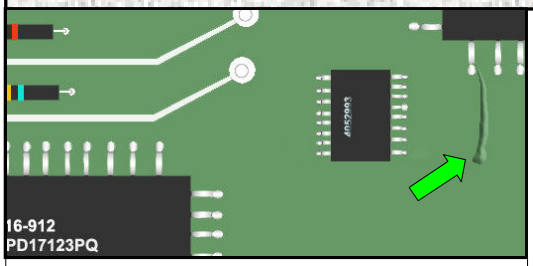
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.2.c]



ACCEPTABLE
PULL BACK

Minor pull back from sharp points and edges is permissible, unless otherwise specified on engineering documentation.

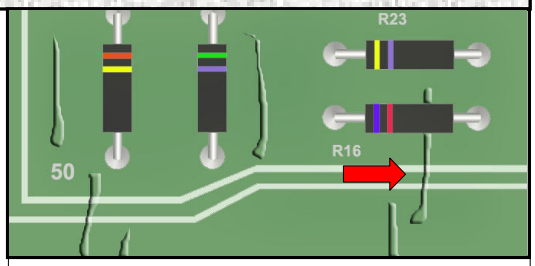
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b], [11.8.2.g]



ACCEPTABLE
RUNS

Runs shall not exceed 5% of the surface area.

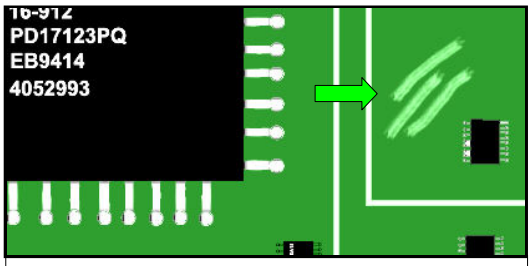
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
RUNS

Runs shall not exceed 5% of the surface area.

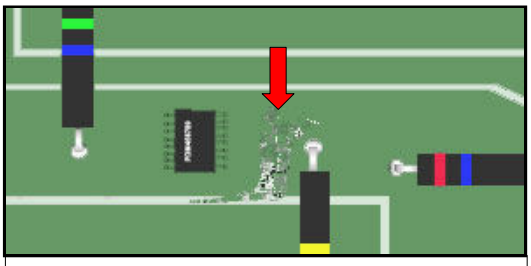
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.k]



ACCEPTABLE
SCRATCHES

Scratches, which do not expose conductive surfaces, or reduce the coating thickness below minimum thickness requirements, are acceptable.

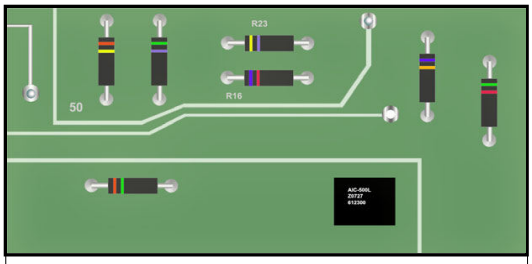
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
SCRATCHES / SCRAPES

Scratches, which expose conductive surfaces, are not acceptable.

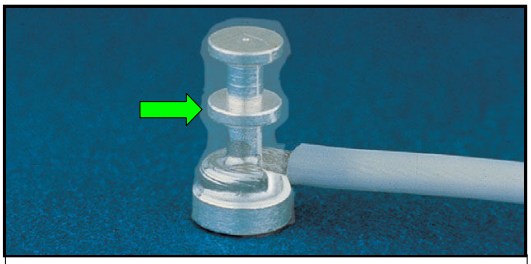
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.e]



ACCEPTABLE
SPRAY APPLICATION

The conformal coating is evenly applied, exhibits uniform color, thickness, proper adhesion, and is smooth and tack free. No evidence of shadowing, orange peel, or dusting.

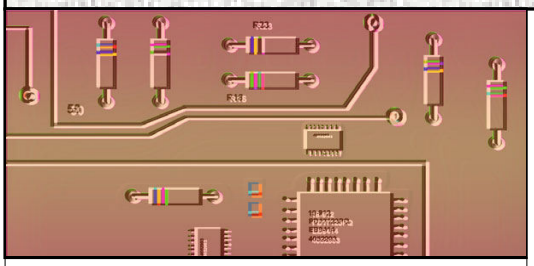
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.2.a]



ACCEPTABLE
TERMINALS

Terminals shall be conformally coated, including the wire insulation gap, unless it is a solder ball termination (i.e., a high-voltage termination). Minor pullback from sharp points and edges is acceptable.

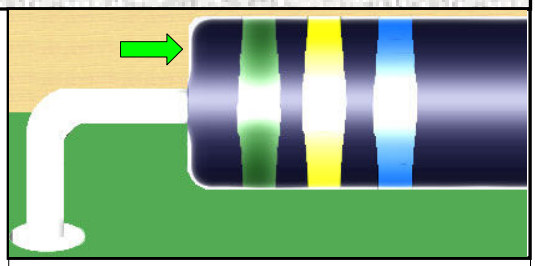
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.d]



ACCEPTABLE
ULTRAVIOLET (UV) FLUORESCENCE

Conformal coatings containing a fluorescent dye shall be examined under an ultraviolet (UV) source. The coating shall exhibit uniform fluorescence when exposed to an ultraviolet (UV) light source.

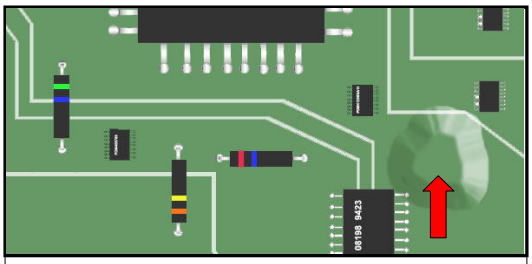
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.9.2]



ACCEPTABLE
VACUUM DEPOSITION

Conformal coating covers all areas as specified on the engineering documentation. The coating is thin, of uniform thickness, and fillet free.

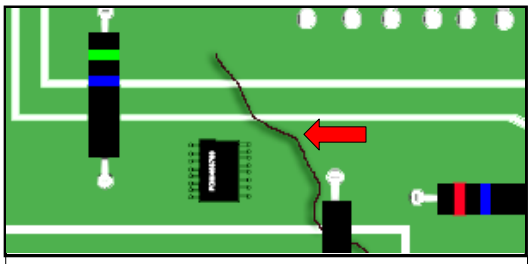
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.2.d]



UNACCEPTABLE
BLISTERING

Blistering is typically caused by improper preparation / priming, or entrapped moisture or contaminants, and is cause for rejection.

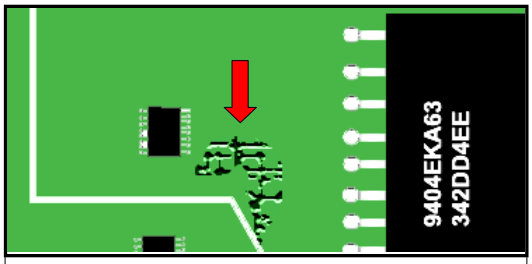
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination (i.e., flux, loose particles, foreign material, etc.) shall be cause for rejection.

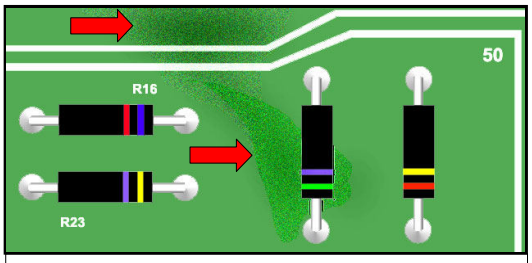
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.c], [11.8.3.f]



UNACCEPTABLE
CRACKING

Cracking is typically caused by improper cure, excessive heat during cure, or excessive flexure of the substrate, and negate the environmental sealing properties of the coating.

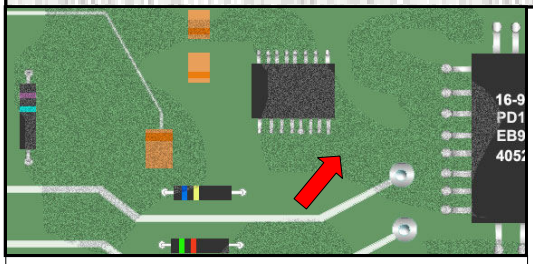
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
DISCOLORATION

Conformal coating shall not exhibit discoloration (due to such things as excessive curing oven temperature, contamination, etc.).

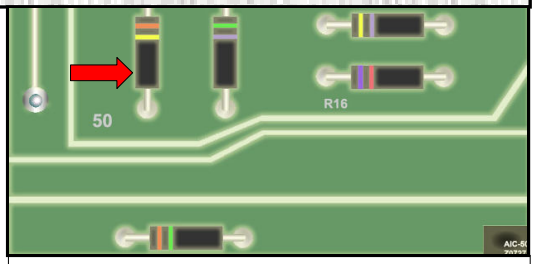
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.f], [11.8.3.g]



UNACCEPTABLE
DUSTY / POWDERY FINISH

A dusty or powdery finish is typically caused by over-spray from adjacent boards and/or improper spray distance.

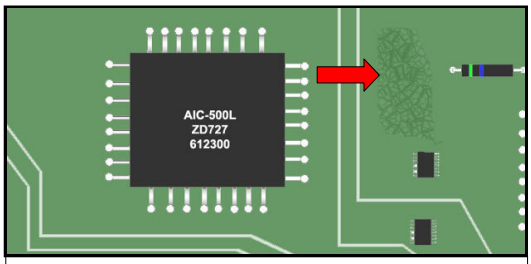
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE THICKNESS

Conformal coatings shall completely encapsulate the components with a uniform thickness of material, and follow the contours of the PWA.

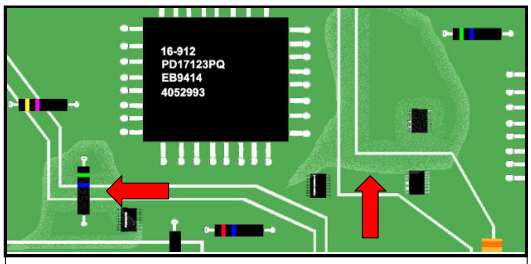
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
FINGERPRINTS / INDENTATIONS

Permanent fingerprints or indentations in the coating are an indicator of improper cure or handling.

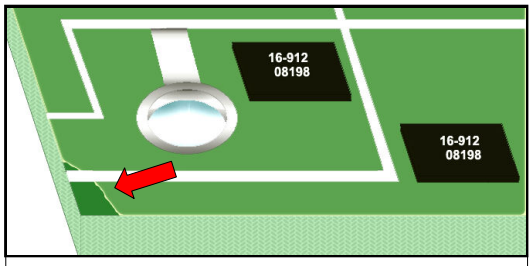
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
HAZY / MILKY FINISH

A hazy or milky appearance is an indicator of entrapped moisture, improperly mixed material, or material with an outdated shelf-life.

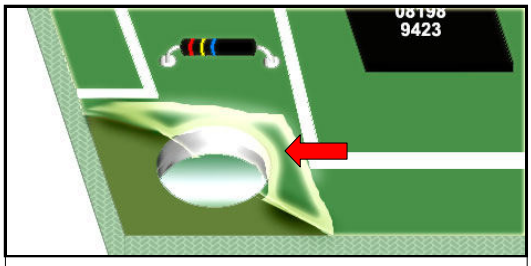
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b], [11.8.3.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER / MISSING COATING

PWAs exhibiting coating that has not been applied to required areas, or coating on areas required to be free of coating, shall be rejectable.

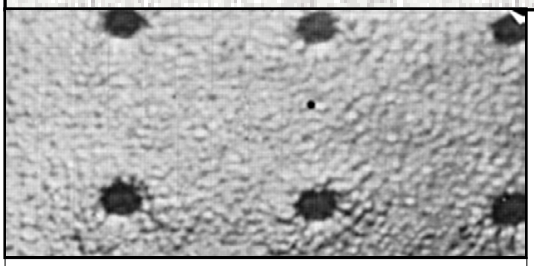
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b], [11.8.2.g]



UNACCEPTABLE
LIFTING / MEASLING / PEELING

Coating exhibiting excessive lifting, mealing, or peeling may be an indicator of improper cleaning, priming, curing, or excessive thickness. Any lifting on conductive areas is nonconforming.

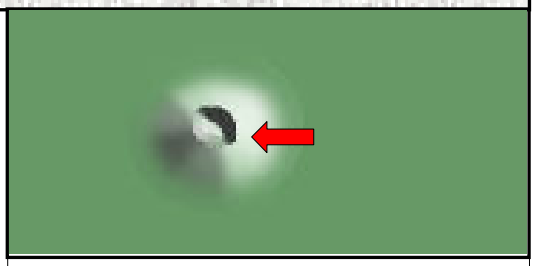
NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.j]



UNACCEPTABLE
ORANGE PEEL

Uneven surface textures, such as orange peel, are an indicator of improper application, thickness, and/or cure.

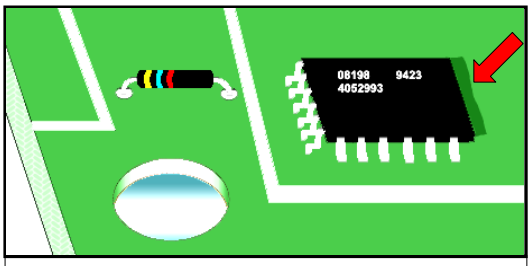
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
PINHOLES

Pinholes in the coating allow moisture and contaminants to potentially reduce the reliability of the PWA.

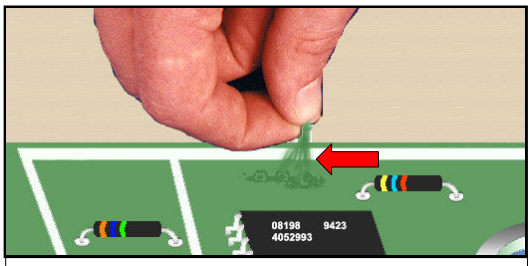
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.5.b], [11.8.3.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
SHADOWING

Shadowing is caused by the incomplete / improper application of coating material during the spray process, and results in improper thickness or missing coverage.

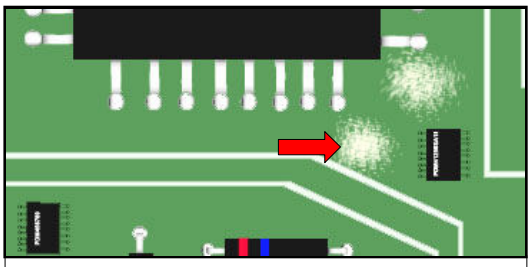
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.2.2.a], [10.2.5.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
SOFT SPOTS / TACKINESS

Soft spots / tackiness (stickiness) indicate that the coating may not have been properly cured. Silicone coatings have a slight rubbery feel, but are not sticky.

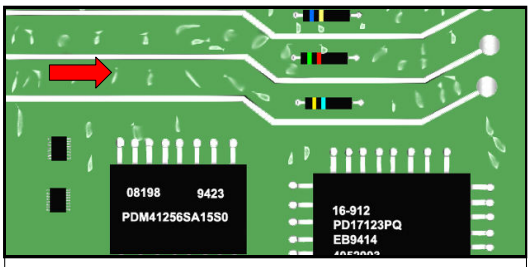
NASA-STD-8739.1 [10.3.1], [11.8.3.d], [11.9.4]



UNACCEPTABLE
WHITISH SPOTS (MEASLING)

Whitish spots are an indication of moisture / solvent contamination, and shall be rejectable.

NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.e]

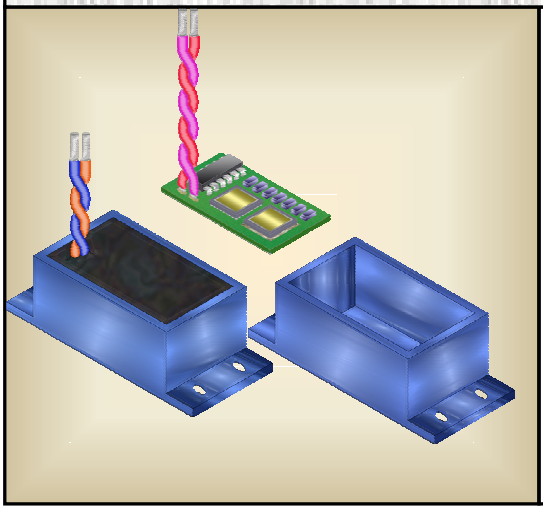


UNACCEPTABLE
WRINKLING

Wrinkling is an indicator of an improper / uneven cure or a reaction to unevaporated solvents on the laminate surface.

NASA-STD-8739.1 [11.8.3.e]

POLYMERIC SYSTEMS
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

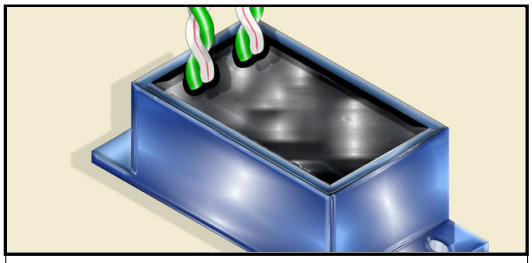


GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Polymeric systems provide mechanical and cushioning support to components, improved thermal profile / thermal sinking, and tamper-resistant, environmental packaging.

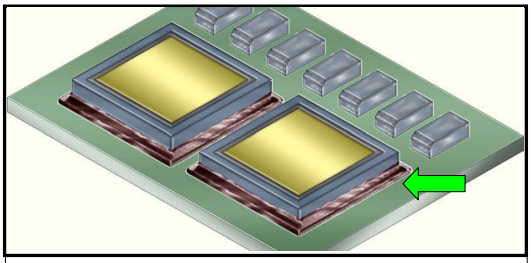
Encapsulation is a process in which electronic subassemblies (i.e.: power supplies, amplifiers, hybrid circuits, etc.) are embedded in a polymer (i.e.: silicon, epoxy gel) to produce a unitized, sealed assembly.

Underfill is a process in which a polymer (i.e.: epoxy) is injected under an electronic component to improve thermal coefficient (tc) match and extend solder joint fatigue life.



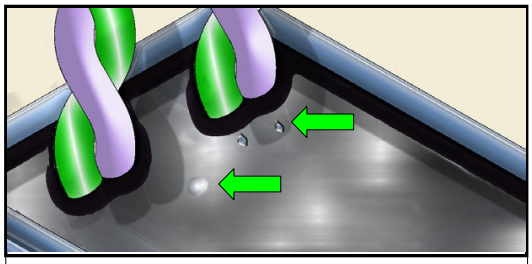
PREFERRED ENCAPSULANT

Material is fully cured, with a smooth, continuous surface extending over all embedded components, and exhibits fully wetted, continuous contact fillets with protruding devices (wires, cable, connector, etc.) and the enclosure wall. No bubbles, cavities, striation marks, or spillage.



PREFERRED UNDERFILL

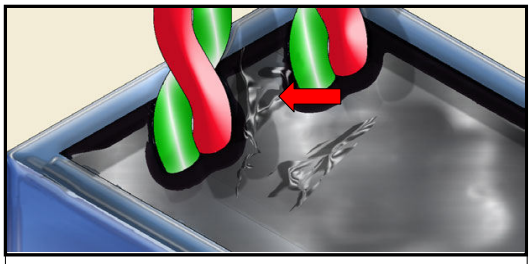
Material exhibits complete and uniform flow under the component body. Peripheral fillets are smooth and uniform, with a concave profile. No bubbles, cavities, or spillage.



ACCEPTABLE BUBBLES / CAVITIES

Minor surface bubbles or cavities that do not extend to underlying components or conductive surfaces, are isolated, or bridge between conductors are acceptable.

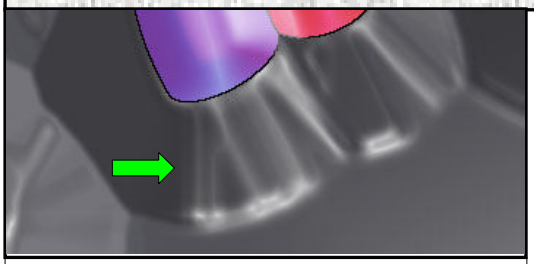
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE BUBBLES / CAVITIES

Bubbles or cavities that bridge conductors are unacceptable.

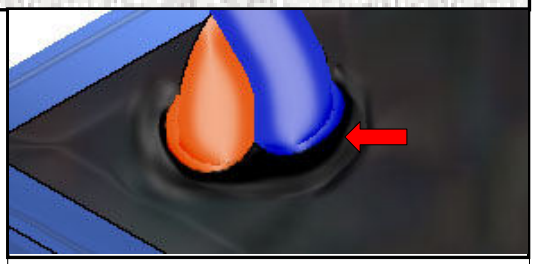
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
ENCAPSULANT FILLETS

Assembly exhibits proper fill, with complete fillets extending a minimum of two (2) largest wire diameters above the encapsulant surface.

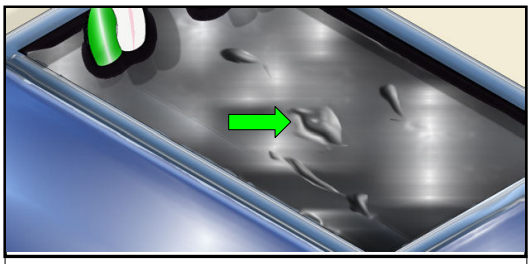
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MISSING FILLETS

Assembly does not exhibit required fillets extending two (2) largest wire diameters above the encapsulant surface.

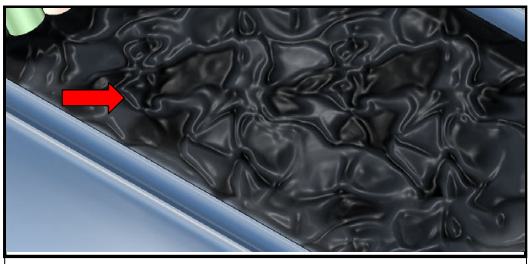
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
PROFILE / FINISH

A rough profile / finish is caused by gel set (pre-cure) of the material, before the material has had sufficient time to smoothly settle and flow. Minor roughness that does not interfere with the form, fit, or function or the device is acceptable.

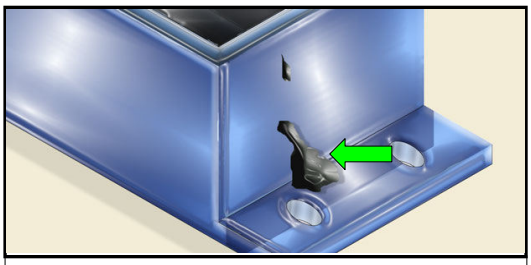
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PROFILE / FINISH

Excessive peaks, crests, or folds indicate that the material was worked beyond its pot life. Assemblies typically exhibit improper adhesion, entrapped voids, etc. and shall be rejected.

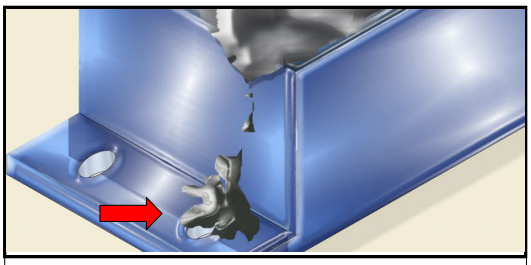
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SPILLAGE

Minor spillage that does not interfere with the form, fit, or function of the device is acceptable.

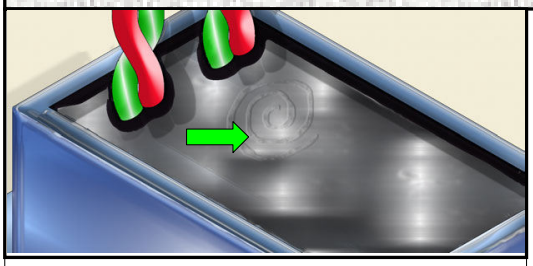
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXCESSIVE FILL / SPILLAGE

Excessive fill or spillage that interferes with the form, fit, or function shall be rejectable.

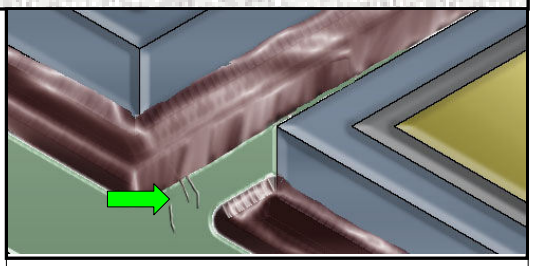
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRIATION / FLOW MARKS

Striation / flow marks are an indicator of material flow during fill / pour, and are acceptable, provided no other defects are evident and the material meets wetting, cure and hardness requirements.

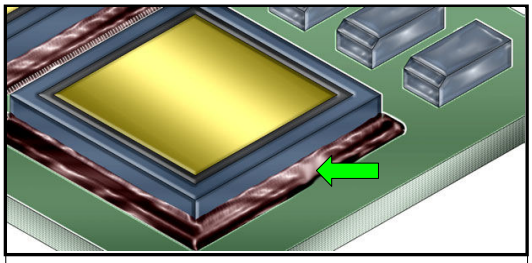
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
STRINGING

Minor stringing is acceptable, provided the deposit is completely adhered, does not contact exposed conductive circuits, component leads, jumpers, or glass-bodied components, and is not subject to flexure.

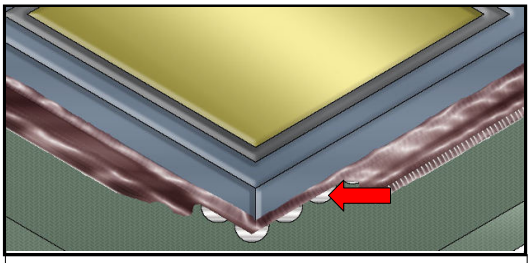
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
UNDERFILL FILLETS

Assembly exhibits proper fill, with complete positive fillets extending around the periphery of the device body.

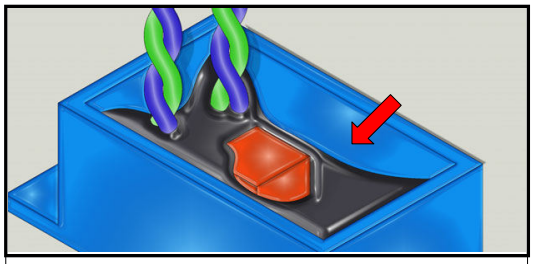
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
INCOMPLETE / PARTIAL UNDERFILL

Incomplete or partial underfill can result in solder joint failure and incorrect / uneven thermal profile.

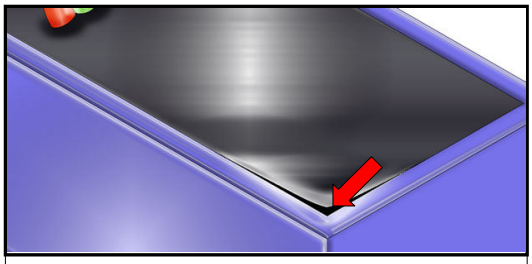
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
EXPOSED CIRCUITRY / COMPONENTS

Assemblies exhibiting exposed circuitry, components, conductive surfaces shall be rejected.

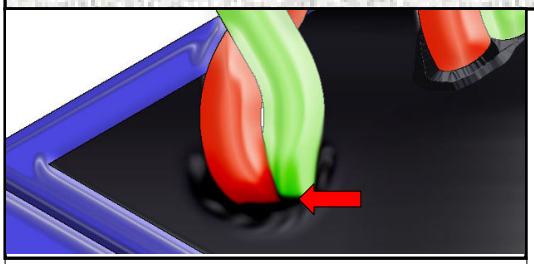
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PULL-AWAY / PARTING

Assemblies exhibiting pull-away of the encapsulant shall be rejected. Pull-away is caused by improper adhesion, improper wetting, or excessive shrinkage.

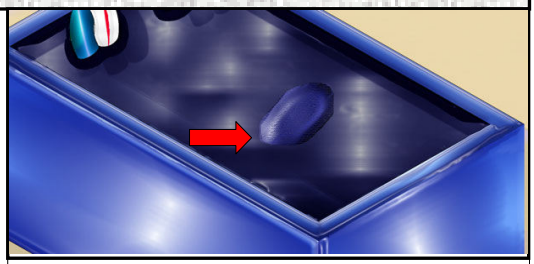
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
RECESSED FILLETS

Recessed (negative) fillets indicate improper wetting / non-wetting and shall be grounds for rejection.

Best Workmanship Practice

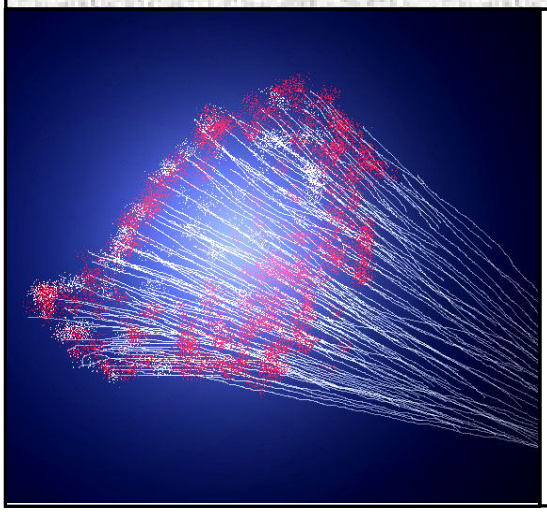


UNACCEPTABLE
TACKINESS

Tackiness indicates an improper / incomplete cure. Tackiness usually manifests itself in the generation of residual fingerprint reliefs (permanent marks) and/or depressions, following light touching of the surface.

Best Workmanship Practice

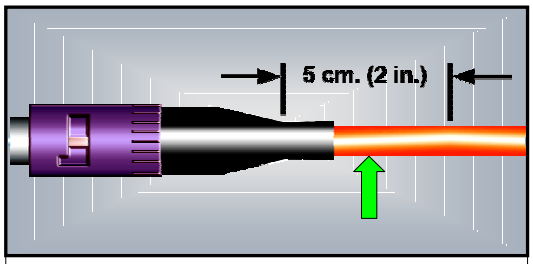
FIBER OPTICS
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



FIBER OPTICS

The term Fiber Optics (FO) is used to describe a technology which is based upon the use of a filament-shaped optical waveguide, made of a dielectric material (plastic or glass) having controlled optical reflection and refraction properties, to transmit information as light pulses rather than electrical pulses.

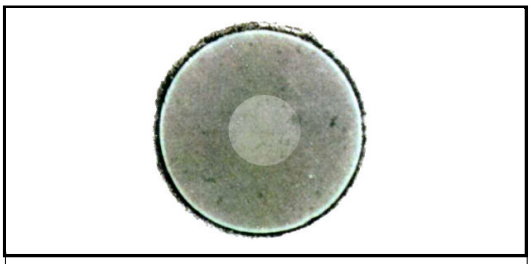
Fiber Optics has benefits that the traditional copper-based system does not, including low weight, electromagnetic noise immunity, and extremely high transmission speeds.



PREFERRED
AXIAL ALIGNMENT

Axial alignment of the cable to the connector shall be maintained within 5 cm (2 in.) of the entry / exit from the connector body.

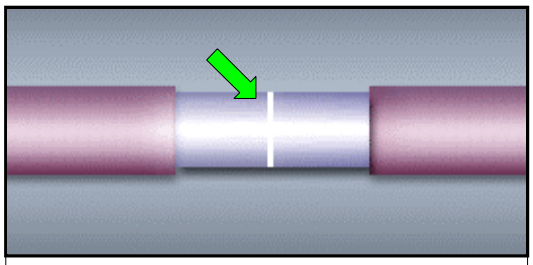
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.h]



PREFERRED
BARE FIBER END FACE

End face is smooth and free from cracks, scratches, edge chips, hackles, pits, and/or other surface or sub-surface anomalies. The core is clearly discernable. Cleave angle is less than 2 degrees from perpendicular to the fiber axis.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [App. A]

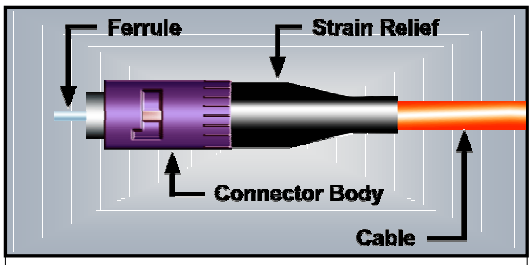


PREFERRED
CHEMICAL SPLICE

The fiber endfaces are perfectly aligned and in contact with each other. No bubbles or contamination.

Note: Chemical splices are allowed for the temporary joining of fiber optics (i.e.: test) only.

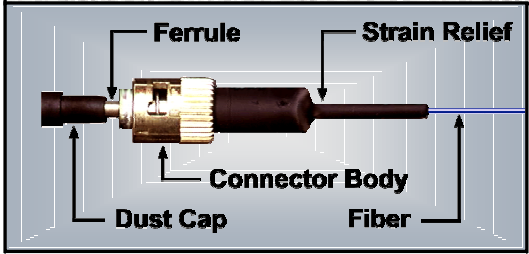
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.c]



PREFERRED
CONNECTOR / CABLE CONFIGURATION

Connector is properly assembled, clean and damage-free. Strain-relief is properly installed, straight, tight, and damage-free. Axial alignment of the cable to the connector is maintained within 5 cm (2 in.) of the exit from the connector body.

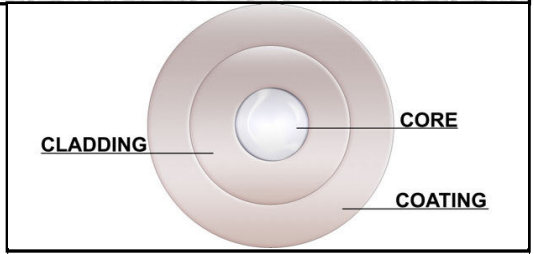
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3]



PREFERRED
CONNECTOR / FIBER CONFIGURATION

The connector is properly assembled, clean and damage-free. The connector and fiber strain-relief device(s) are properly installed, straight, tight, and damage-free. Axial alignment of the fiber to the connector is maintained within specifications.

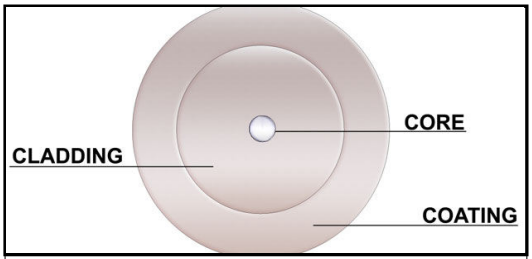
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3]



PREFERRED
ENDFACE (MULTI-MODE)

The endface is clean and free from cracks, scratches, edge chips, hackles, pits, and other anomalies. The fiber is concentric in the ferrule, and the epoxy ring is even. Ferrule and connector are damage-free.

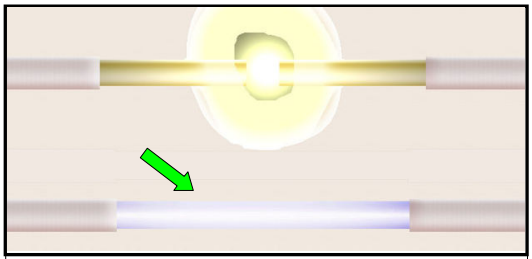
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3.1.c]



PREFERRED
ENDFACE (SINGLE-MODE)

The endface is clean and free from cracks, scratches, edge chips, hackles, pits, and other anomalies. The fiber is concentric in the ferrule, and the epoxy ring is even. Ferrule and connector are damage-free.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3.1.c]



PREFERRED
FUSION SPLICE

The splice is perfectly aligned. Fusion zone is of uniform diameter, with no bubbles, contamination, or boundary layer evident. Splice closure is properly installed.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.a]

PREFERRED
MECHANICAL SPLICE

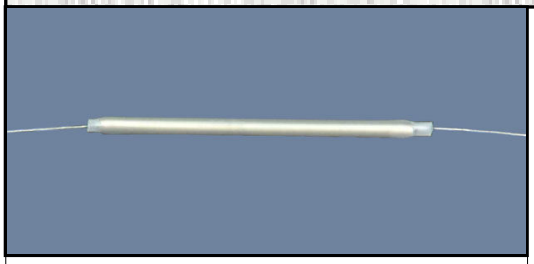
The fibers are properly inserted, aligned, and the endfaces are in contact with each other. Splice housing is properly assembled, and strain relief features are set. Mechanical splices are not for spaceflight applications.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.b]

PREFERRED
SPLICE CLOSURE

Splices shall be protected. If an enclosure cannot be used for a specific application, engineering documentation shall provide for other means of protection.

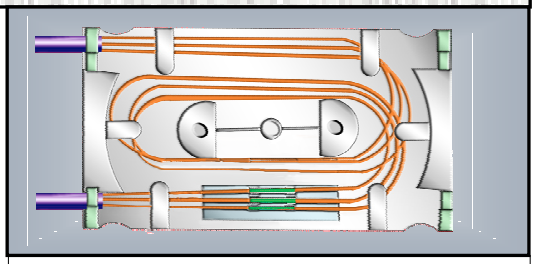
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.3.b]



PREFERRED
SPLICE LOCATION

Splices shall not be located in flexure areas of the cable except when a splice is recoated and rejacketed in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

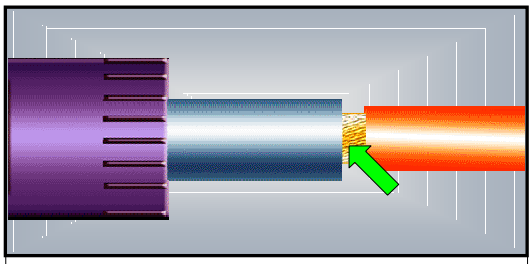
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.3.a]



PREFERRED
SPLICE TRAY

Splices shall be neatly organized and marked. Service loops shall be adequate, with bend radii within specifications.

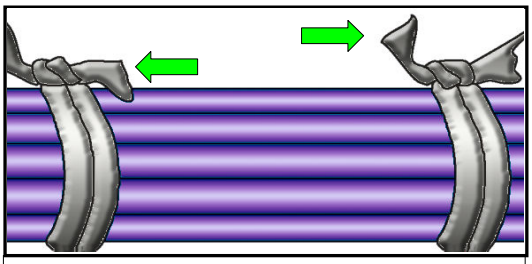
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.3.9]



PREFERRED
STRENGTH MEMBER

Strength members shall be secured to prevent mechanical stress on the fiber.

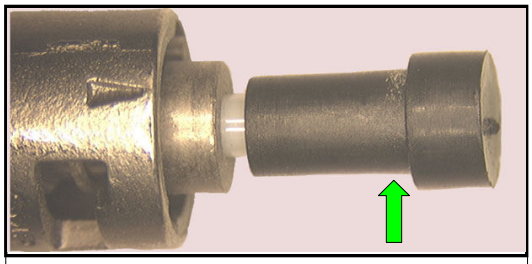
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.3.c]



PREFERRED
TIE DOWNS

Optical fibers and cables shall be tied down per engineering documentation. Ties shall not pinch, deform, or stress the fiber.

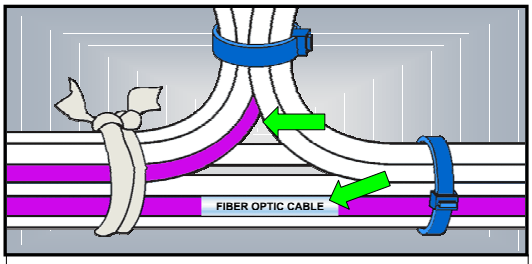
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.4.3], [12.2.3], [12.3.4]



MANDATORY
DUST CAP

Dust caps shall be installed on all connectors when not in use. Vinyl dust caps shall not be used.

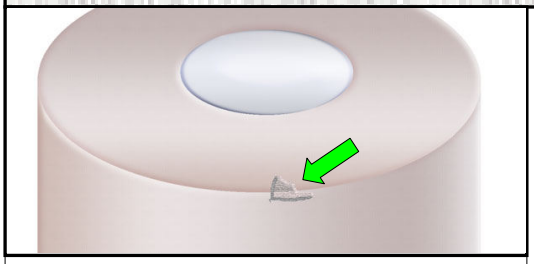
NASA-STD-8739.5 [12.2.4], [12.3.5]



MANDATORY
IDENTIFICATION

Fiber optic cables shall be identified in such a way to distinguish these cables from wire or coaxial cable. Identification methods typically used are color-coding, labeling / marking, etc.

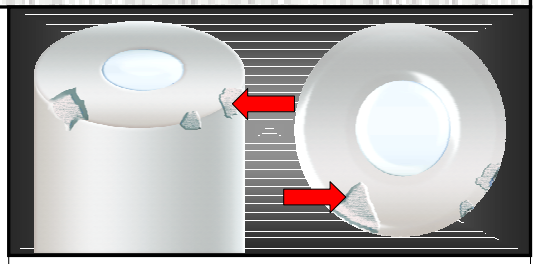
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.2]



ACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
EDGE CHIPS

Edge chips are acceptable if chip maximum dimension is ≤ 3% of fiber diameter and there are less than 3 chips total. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

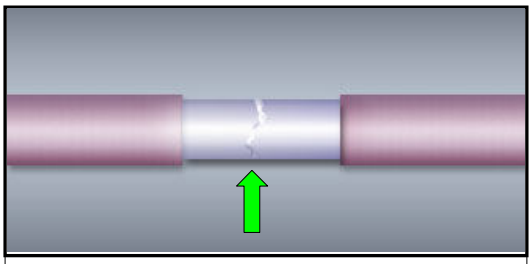
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
EDGE CHIPS

Unacceptable if chip maximum dimension is > 3% of fiber diameter and/or there are more than 3 chips. Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

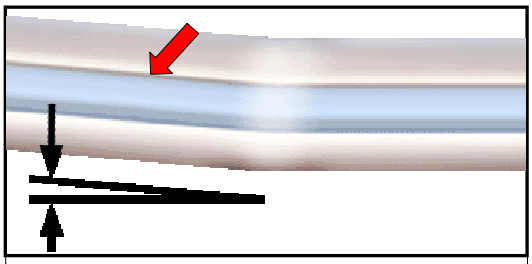
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.e]



ACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICES

Mating fibers are properly aligned, but fused section is slightly distorted. No bubbles or boundary layer / diffraction zone. Optical loss is within engineering requirements.

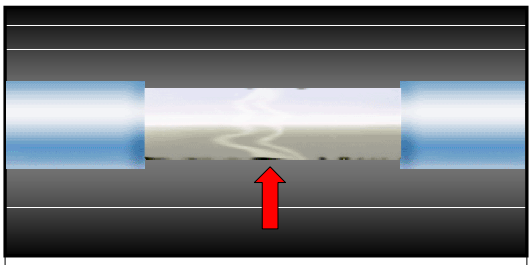
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICES
ANGULAR MISALIGNMENT

Caused by poor cleaves and/or misalignment of the mating fiber ends. High attenuation and poor mechanical properties. Scrap and reterminate.

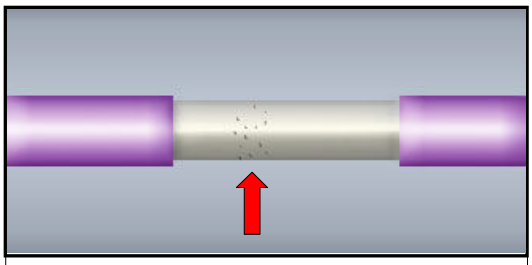
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICES
BOUNDARY LAYER / DIFFRACTION ZONE

A boundary layer or diffraction zone in a fusion splice is an indicator of an incomplete fusion process, improper cleave, and/or contamination. Scrap and reterminate.

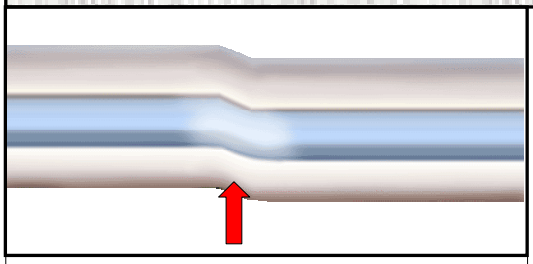
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICES
BUBBLES

Bubbles in a fusion splice are an indicator of an incomplete fusion process, improper cleave, and/or contamination. Scrap and reterminate.

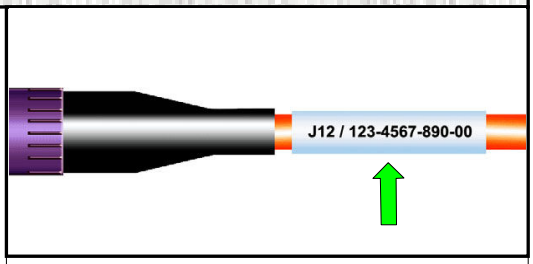
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICES
LATERAL OFFSET

Caused by a lateral misalignment during the fusion process. Very high attenuation and poor mechanical properties. Scrap and reterminate.

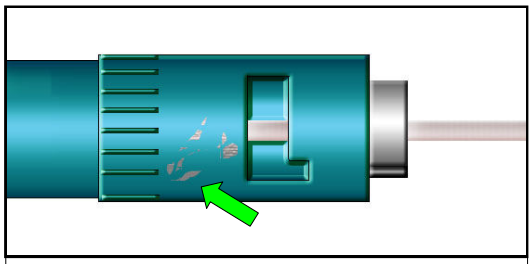
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
MARKINGS

Cable connectors shall be permanently marked with mating connector designation within 15 cm (6 in.) of the connector body, or as per engineering documentation.

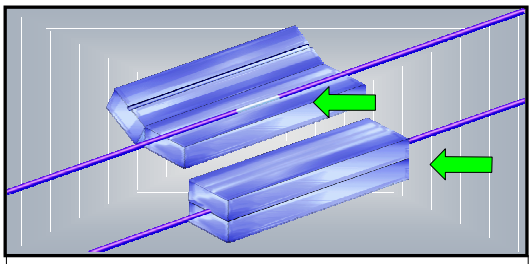
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.3]



ACCEPTABLE
SCUFF MARKS

Minor scuff marks on the connector body, and/or cable jacket are acceptable, provided the damage does not impact form, fit, or function. Scuffing on the ferrule is an indicator of improper handling or excessive use.

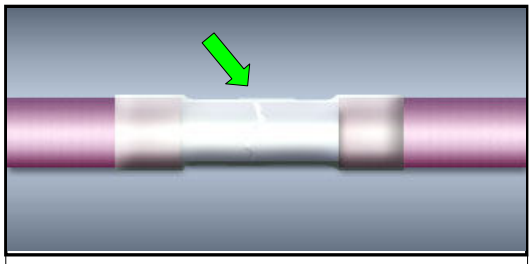
Best Workmanship Practice



ACCEPTABLE
SPLICE PROTECTOR
BUTTERFLY

Splice closure is properly installed, and strain relief features are set.

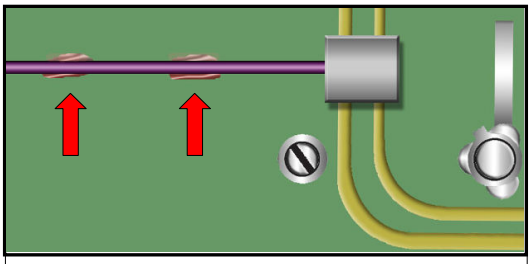
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.a]



ACCEPTABLE
SPLICE PROTECTOR
HEAT SHRINK

Splice closure is properly located. Shrinkage is uniform and strain relief features are set. No evidence of scorching, burning, or melting.

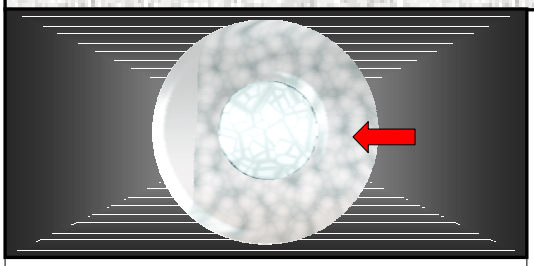
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONFORMAL COATING / STAKING

Conformal coating or staking shall not be applied to optical fiber unless specifically required in the engineering documentation.

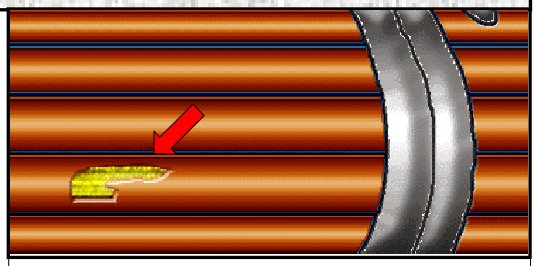
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.4.5]



UNACCEPTABLE
CONTAMINATION

Contamination is the primary cause of splicing and connectorization problems. Fingerprints and cleaning residue on the endface can significantly degrade signal quality.

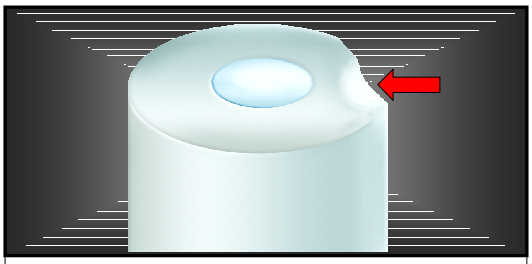
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
DAMAGE

Damage to the buffer, outer jacket, or other cable components in excess of engineering specification shall be cause for rejection.

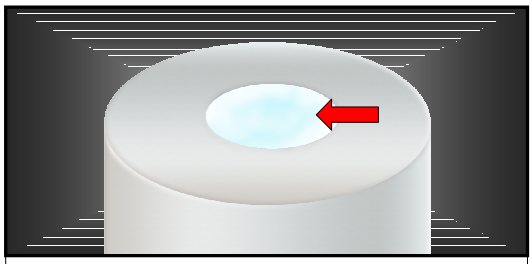
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
BREAKDOWN / ROLLOFF

A surface irregularity characterized by an angular shearing of a portion of the endface. Defect is non-repairable. The fiber / assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped.

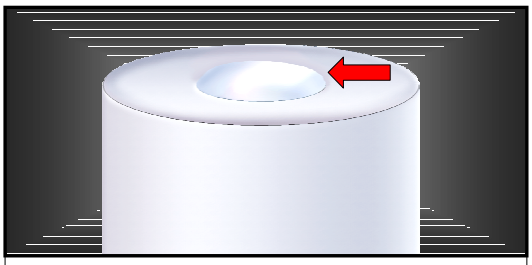
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
CONCAVE

A surface irregularity caused by excessive polishing or an improper cleave. Defect is non-repairable. The assembly / fiber shall be reterminated or scrapped.

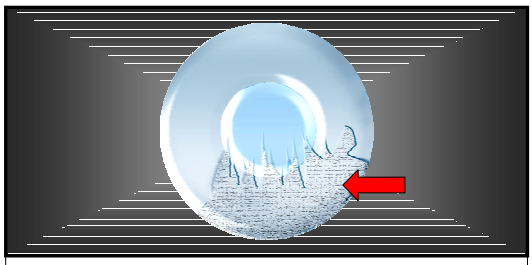
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
CONVEX

A surface irregularity caused by incomplete polishing or an improper cleave. Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

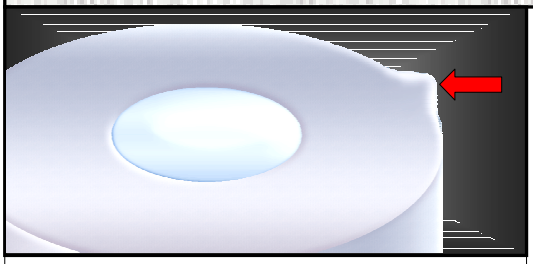
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
HACKLE / MIST

A surface irregularity characterized by a jagged, rippled, or stepped break in the fiber face. Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

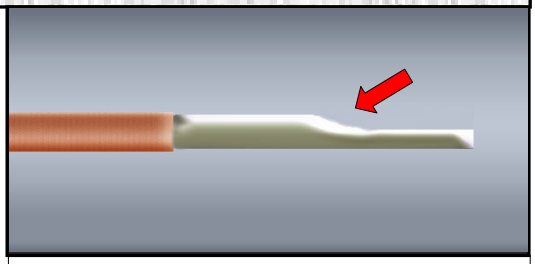
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.1]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
LIP

A surface irregularity characterized by a raised fillet in the fiber edge. Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

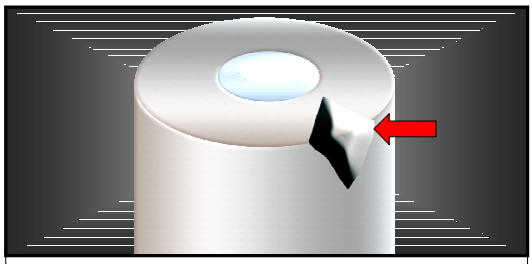
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
NECKING

Necking is the drawing (pulling) of the optical fiber to a smaller diameter during stripping. The fiber shall be trimmed and restripped.

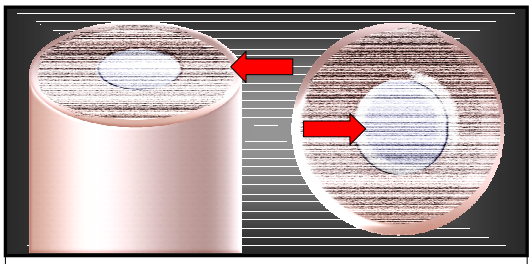
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
NOTCH

A surface irregularity characterized by a radial chip in the fiber edge. Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

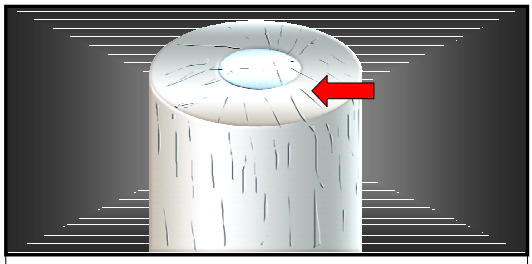
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SCRATCHES

Reject and recleave for splice termination. May be fixable by repolishing if connectorized.

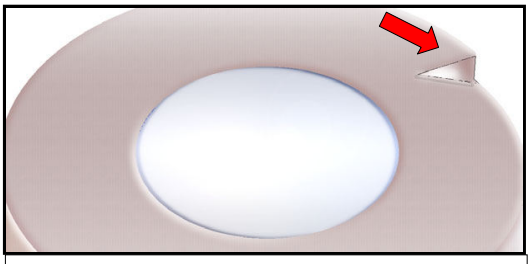
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7e]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SHATTERED

A surface irregularity characterized by radial cracks in the core or cladding. Defect is non-repairable. The fiber / assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped.

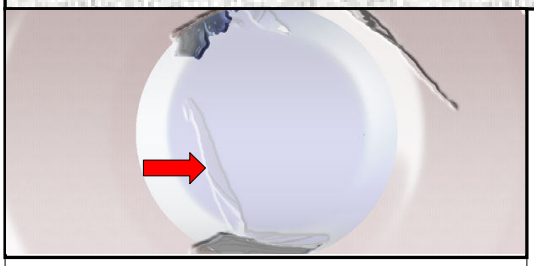
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SPIRAL

A surface irregularity characterized by a circular (screw-shaped) cleave. Defect is non-repairable. The fiber / assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped.

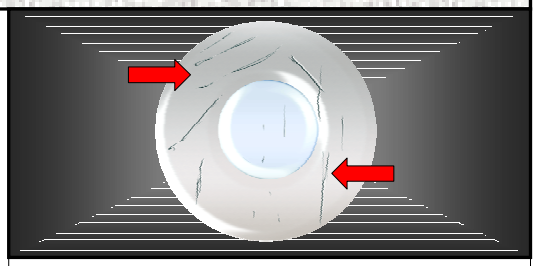
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SUB-SURFACE CRACKS

Sub-surface cracks are only visible with core illumination, and are non-repairable. The fiber / assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped.

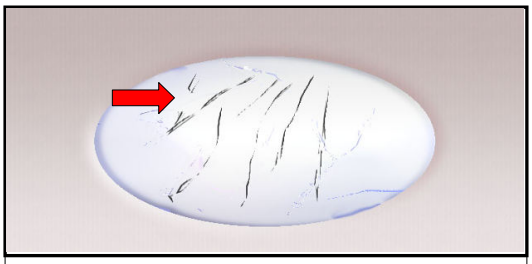
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7e]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SURFACE CRACKS – FLIGHT HARDWARE

If cracks in a flight fiber optic assembly endface are found, the assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped. Re-polishing to fix cracks in flight hardware is prohibited.

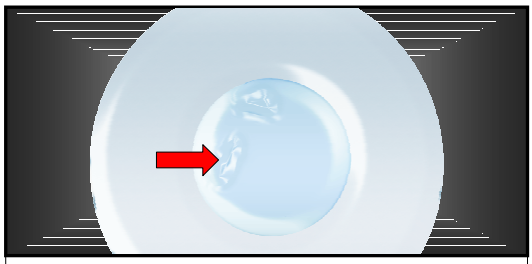
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SURFACE CRACKS – GROUND SUPPORT

If cracks in a flight fiber optic assembly endface are found, the assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped. Re-polishing to fix cracks in flight hardware is prohibited.

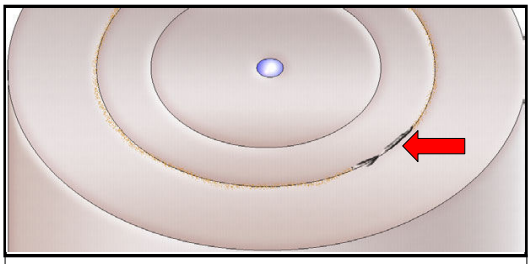
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3.2]



UNACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE ANOMALIES
SURFACE PITS

Repolish if in core or cladding.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7e]



UNACCEPTABLE
EPOXY BOND LINE CRACKS

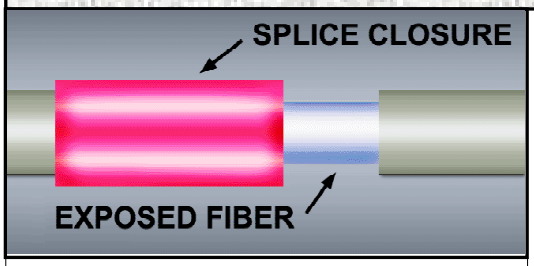
Cracks in the epoxy bond line shall be cause for rejection.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.3.3.c], [11.5.3.c]

UNACCEPTABLE
FERRULE DAMAGE

Cracks, damage, or deformities on the ferrule shall be cause for rejection.

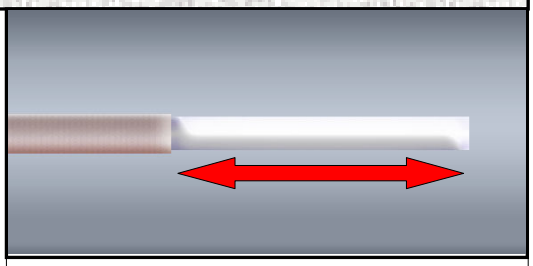
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.5.c], [11.2.3.c]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER SPLICE CLOSURE INSTALLATION

Splice closures shall be installed to provide environmental and mechanical protection to the splice section. As depicted, the splice closure does not completely cover the exposed fiber.

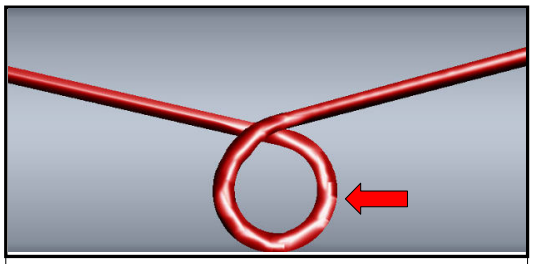
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.3.b], [10.2.7.f]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRIP LENGTH

Fibers designated for splicing or connectorization shall exhibit the proper cable and fiber stripping dimensions. Improper stripping dimensions may reduce reliability or performance.

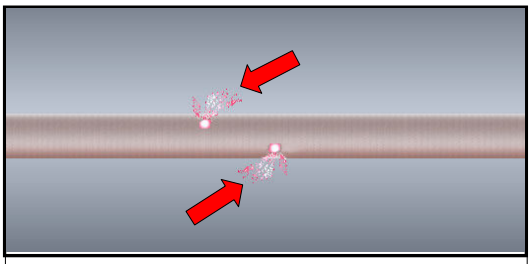
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.4.a], [11.2.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
KINKING

Kinking produces microbends in the fiber, increasing signal attenuation and may promote breakage of the fiber.

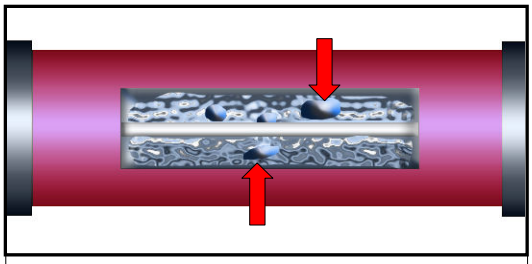
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
LEAKS

Light leakage is the result of a macrobend event in the fiber (i.e.: crack, chip, etc.), causing a disruption in the light's transmission path.

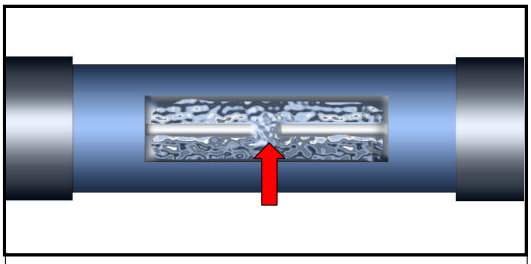
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MECHANICAL SPLICES
BUBBLES

Bubbles in the matching gel cavity will result in a high attenuation termination. The assembly shall be reterminated or scrapped.

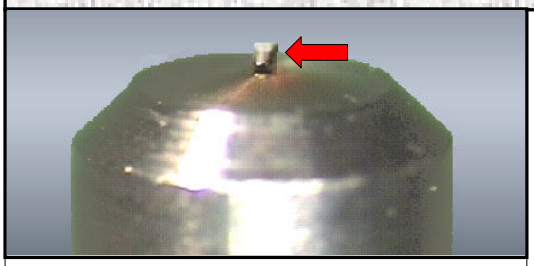
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
MECHANICAL SPLICES
END SEPARATION

Typically seen in mechanical splices where the fiber ends are not in intimate contact, or in splices in which the matching gel has been lost / removed. High attenuation / completely dark.

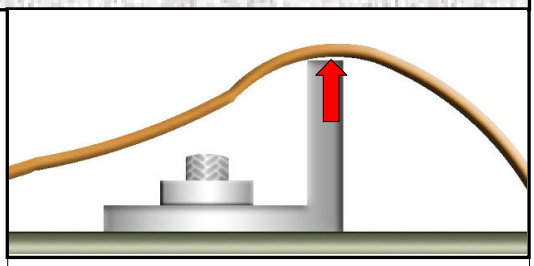
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
PISTONING

The axial movement of the fiber within the connector body/ferrule causes pistoning. Positive pistoning may be fixable by repolishing. Negative pistoning shall be cause for rejection.

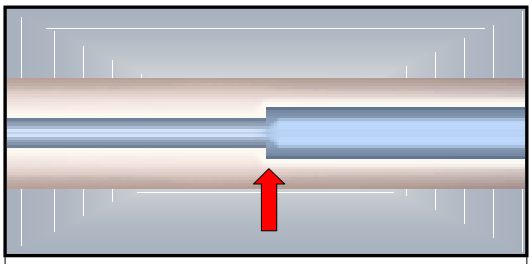
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.3.3.b], [11.5.3.b]



UNACCEPTABLE
ROUTING

Optical fibers and cable assemblies shall not be routed over sharp edges or corners unless appropriate protection is provided.

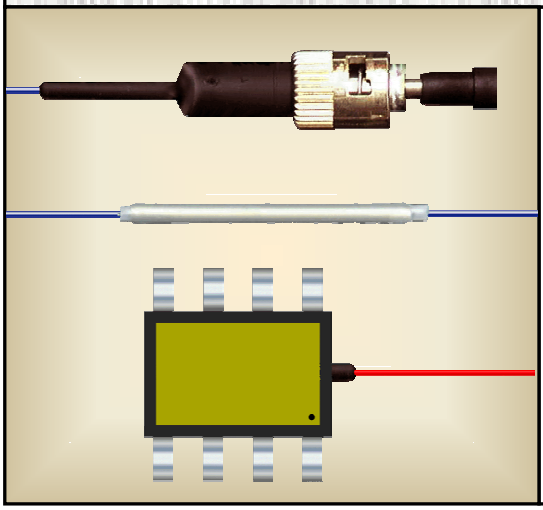
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.4.1], [12.2.8], [12.3.8]



UNACCEPTABLE
SPLICES, CORE MISMATCH

Core mismatch is typically caused by the splicing of two differing fiber core sizes (i.e.: 50/125 to 62.5/125). The splice can result in a power gain, or loss, depending on the direction of transmission.

Best Workmanship Practice

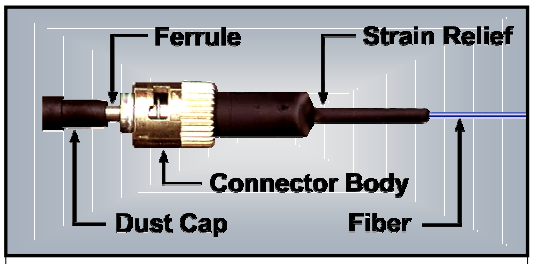


FIBER OPTIC ASSEMBLIES

Fiber optic assemblies include such devices as electro-optical components, star couplers, attenuators, repeaters, etc. The optical fibers in these devices consist of the coated fiber (core, cladding, coating), and differ from fiber optic cables, which are constructed with buffer layers, strength members, and an outer jacket.

Optical fiber offers size and weight savings over optical cable, but additional attention must be paid to the protection of the fiber.

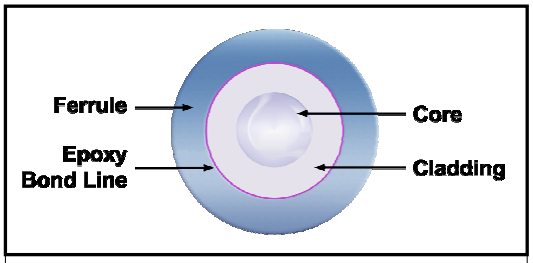
See Section 10.01 “Fiber Optics, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
CONNECTOR / FIBER CONFIGURATION

The connector is properly assembled, clean and damage-free. The connector and fiber strain-relief device(s) are properly installed, straight, tight, and damage-free.

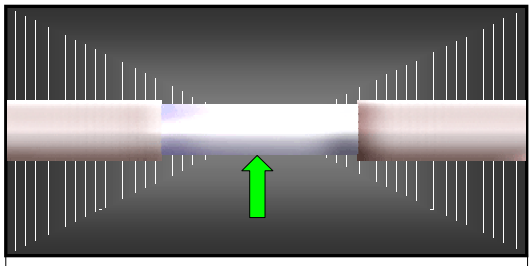
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3]



ACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE

The endface is clean and free from cracks, scratches, edge chips, hackles, pits, and other anomalies. The fiber is concentric in the ferrule, and the epoxy ring is even.

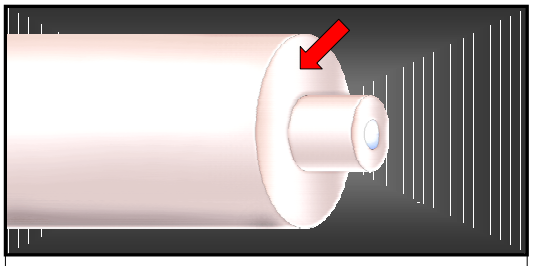
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.3.1.c]



ACCEPTABLE
FUSION SPLICE

The splice is perfectly aligned. Fusion zone is of uniform diameter, with no bubbles, contamination, or boundary layer evident.

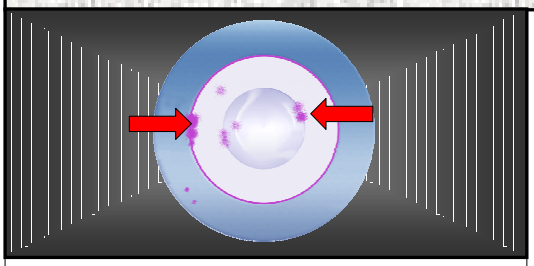
NASA-STD-8739.5 [9.2.2.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
BUFFER SHRINKAGE

Shrinkage of the buffer shall be cause for rejection.

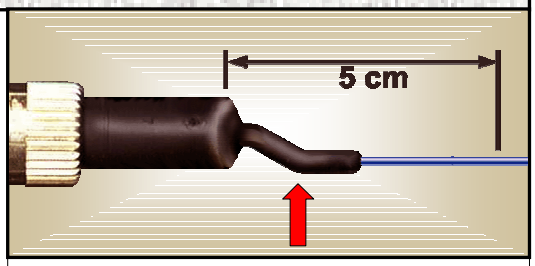
NASA-STD-8739.5 [11.5.3.d]



UNACCEPTABLE
EPOXY

Epoxy deposits on the core, cladding, or ferrule are rejectable. The deposits may be fixable by repolishing.

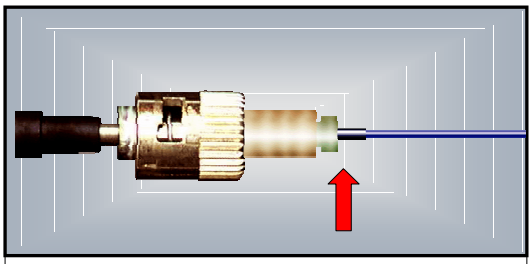
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER FIBER ALIGNMENT

Axial alignment of the fiber to the connector shall be maintained within 5 cm (2 in.) of the entry / exit from the connector body, to minimize stress on the termination and to minimize macrobend effects.

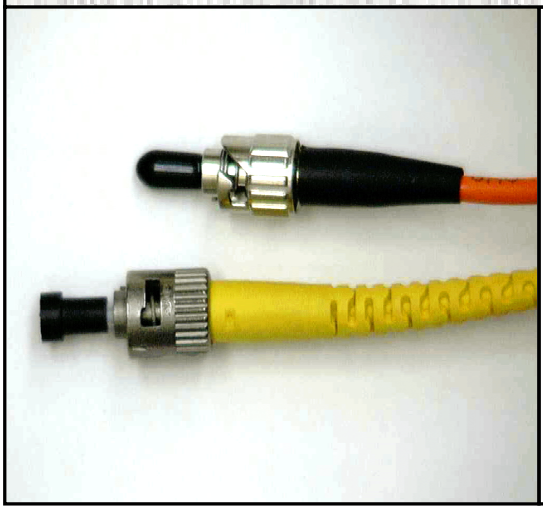
Best Workmanship Practice



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

The strain relief shall be positioned and attached per engineering documentation. As depicted, the strain relief boot has not been installed.

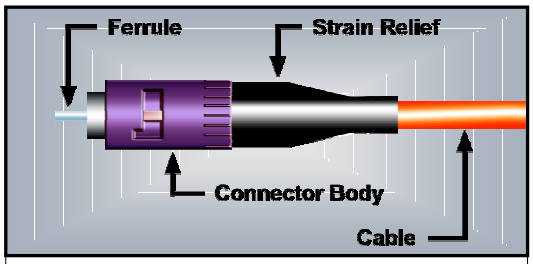
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.f]



FIBER OPTIC CABLE ASSEMBLIES

A fiber optic cable assembly consists of a prepared fiber optic cable, connector, and associated hardware.

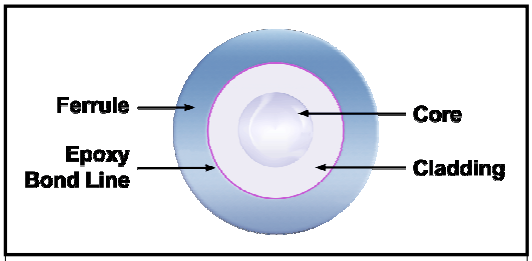
See Section 10.01 “Fiber Optics, General Requirements”, for common accept / reject criteria.



PREFERRED
CONNECTOR / CABLE CONFIGURATION

The connector is properly assembled, clean and damage-free. Strain-relief is properly installed, straight, tight, and damage-free.

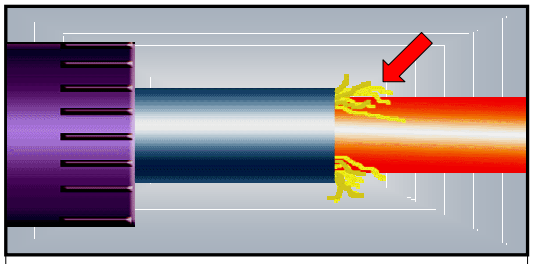
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7]



ACCEPTABLE
ENDFACE

The endface is clean and free from cracks, scratches, edge chips, hackles, pits, and other anomalies. The fiber is concentric in the ferrule, and the epoxy ring is even. Ferrule and connector are damage-free.

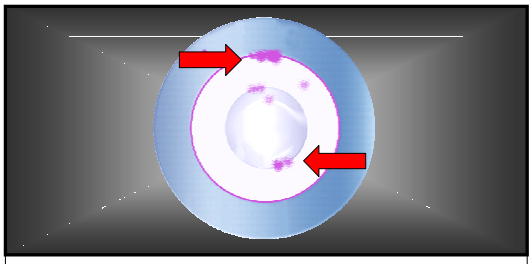
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7]



UNACCEPTABLE
STRENGTH MEMBER

The strength member shall be uniformly distributed and securely attached to the connector. The protruding fibers are a visual indication that the strength member has not been properly crimped to the connector bayonet.

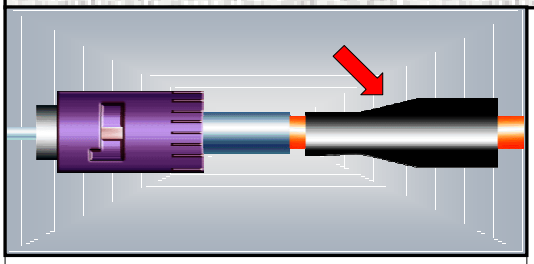
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.a]



UNACCEPTABLE
EPOXY

Epoxy deposits on the core, cladding, or ferrule are rejectable. The deposits may be fixable by repolishing.

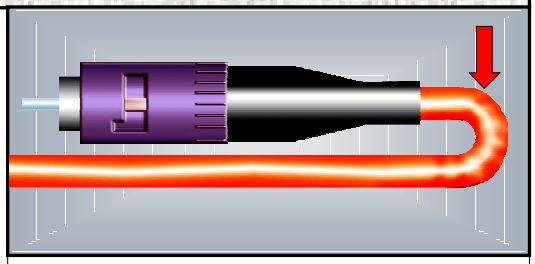
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.e]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER STRAIN RELIEF

The strain relief shall be positioned and attached per engineering documentation. The strain relief boot has been installed backwards - a common assembly error that can only be corrected by removing and replacing the connector.

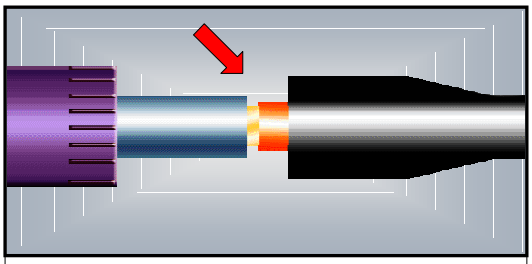
NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.f]



UNACCEPTABLE
IMPROPER CABLE ALIGNMENT

Axial alignment of the cable to the connector shall be maintained within 5 cm (2 in.) of the entry / exit from the connector body. This reduces strain on the connector assembly and minimizes signal attenuation effects.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.2.7.h]

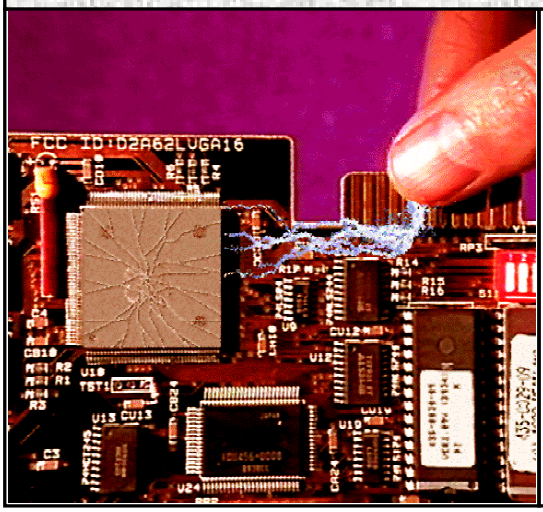


UNACCEPTABLE
SHRINKAGE

Shrinkage of the buffer, outer jacket, or other cable components, which result in reduced mechanical strength, reduced performance, or attenuation losses in excess of engineering specification, shall be cause for rejection.

NASA-STD-8739.5 [10.3.3.d], [11.5.3.d]

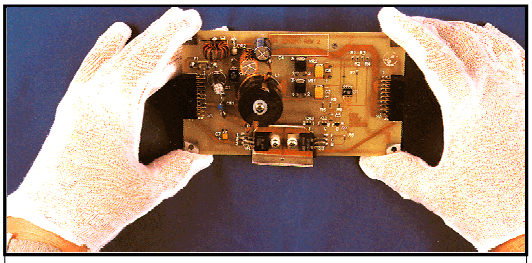
ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE [ESD]
GENERAL REQUIREMENTS



ELECTROSTATIC DISCHARGE (ESD) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) is the rapid, uncontrolled discharge and transfer of accumulated electrical charge between two or more bodies at different electrical potentials, often resulting in significant Electrical Overstress (EOS) damage to sensitive electrical / electronic components.

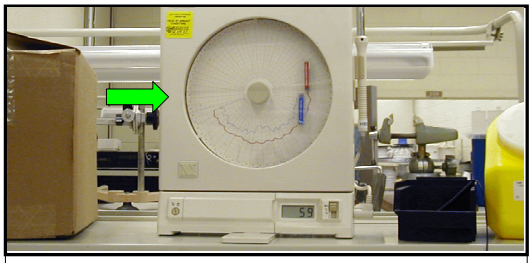
The best prevention program is a combined effort aimed at the prevention and the controlled elimination of static charges, through the practice of proper behavior / procedures, workstation design and layout, environmental controls, tooling, and component handling.



CLOTHING REQUIREMENTS

Non-static generating clothing shall be worn in ESD-protected areas or static dissipative smocks shall be worn as an outer garment. Finger cots and gloves, when worn in an ESD-protected area, shall be made of static dissipative, lint-free, particle-free materials.

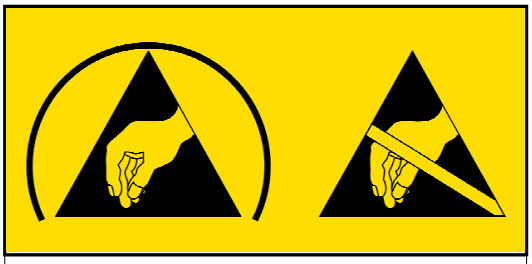
NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.7]



HUMIDIFICATION

The relative humidity shall be monitored and maintained in ESD-protected work areas at 30% to 70%. At levels below 30%, additional precautions shall be employed (e.g.: air ionizers, humidifiers, etc.).

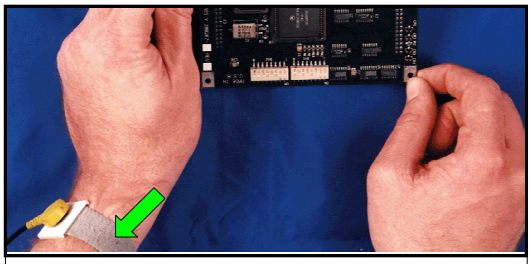
NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2.7], [9.2.1.d]



IDENTIFICATION / MARKING

ESDS items, equipment, and assemblies shall be identified so as to warn personnel before any ESD damaging procedure can be performed.

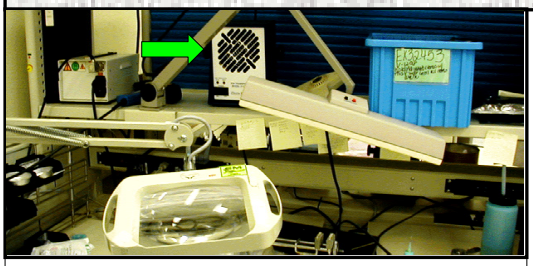
NASA-STD-8739.7 [8.5]



PERSONNEL GROUNDING DEVICES

Personnel grounding devices (such as wrist straps) shall be supplied to all personnel working with or handling ESDS items to prevent the accumulation of dangerous electrostatic charge levels.

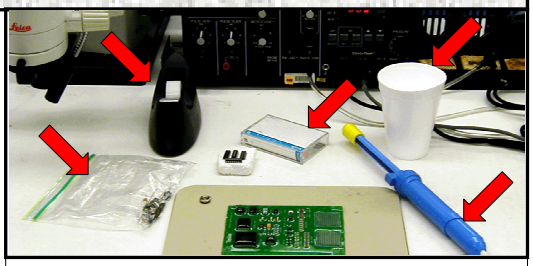
NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2.5], [8.3]



PREVENTATIVE EQUIPMENT

Air ionizers are recommended where grounding is impractical, where extremely ESD sensitive devices are used (<100V HBM), or where additional prevention against EOS / ESD are desired.

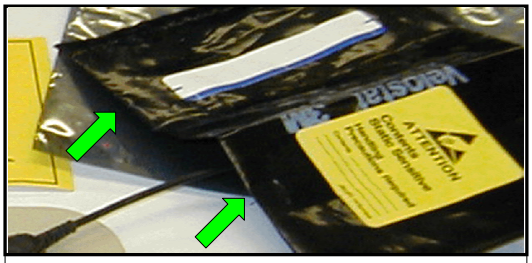
NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2]



PROHIBITED MATERIALS

The area shall be maintained in a clean and orderly condition. Smoking, eating, and drinking in ESD-protected areas shall not be permitted. Unapproved tools, static generating materials, and/or materials unessential to the fabrication area are also prohibited at the workstation.

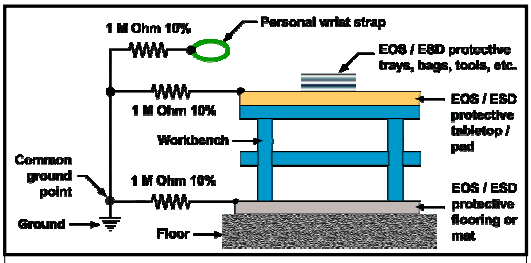
NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2.2]



PROTECTIVE PACKAGING

Electrostatic protective packaging shall prevent the generation of charge and provide protection from strong electrostatic fields. Materials used shall satisfy the resistivity requirements to avoid triboelectric charge build-up.

NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.3]



WORKSTATION GROUNDING SYSTEM

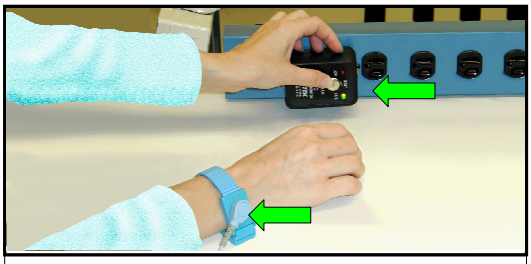
All work surfaces / workstations in an ESD-protected area shall be static dissipative and electrically connected to the common point ground system.

NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2.3.a]

WORKSTATION IDENTIFICATION / ACCESS

The ESD-protected area shall be clearly identified by prominently placed signs and marking systems (barrier tape, partition, rope guard, etc.). Access to such areas shall be limited to trained and equipped personnel.

NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.2.1]



WRIST STRAP TESTING

A wrist strap tester shall be available in all areas where ESDS items are handled. Wrist strap and foot grounding devices shall be tested daily.

NASA-STD-8739.7 [7.1.2], [7.6.3]

APPENDIX BEND RADIUS TABLE			
Conductor / Cable Type	**Optimum Bend Radius (O.D.)**	**Minimum Bend Radius (O.D.)**	**Space between constraint point to start of bend (O.D.)**
Coaxial Cable	10	6	6
Coaxial Cable (Rigid)	3.5	2	6
Coaxial Cable (Semi-Rigid)	3.5	2	6
Component Lead (Flat)	2	1	0.5mm (0.020 in.)
Component Lead (Round)	2	1	2
Fiber Optic Cable (Flight Applications)	15	10	10
Fiber Optic Cable (Mission Critical Ground Support)	15	10	10
Fiber Optic Cable (Hybrid)	20	10	10
Fiber Optic, Individual (Tight Buffer)	15	10	10
Flat Cable	10	3	3
Flat Cable (Shielded)	10	3	3
Harness (with coaxial cable, fiber optic, or individual conductors 8 AWG or larger)	10	6	6
Harness (with individual conductors 10 AWG or smaller, no coaxial or fiber optic)	10	3	3
Harness with polyimide (Kapton®) insulated wires.	15	10	10
Individual Insulated Conductor	3	2	2
Multiconductor (Non-shielded)	10	3	3
Multiconductor (Shielded)	10	6	6
Polyimide (Kapton®) Insulated	15	10	10
Ribbon Cable	10	3	3
Ribbon Cable (Shielded)	10	3	3

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APPENDIX
CRIMP TERMINATIONS

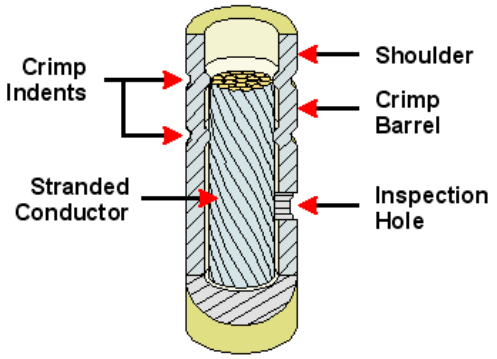
Crimping is an efficient and highly reliable method to assemble and terminate contacts, pins, lugs, coaxial connectors and ferrules to stranded conductors for assembly into connector bodies. To ensure the quality of the crimp termination, destructive testing is performed on pre- and post-production run samples. Test values and visual examples of accept / reject criteria follow:

CRIMP PINS, SOCKETS & LUGS

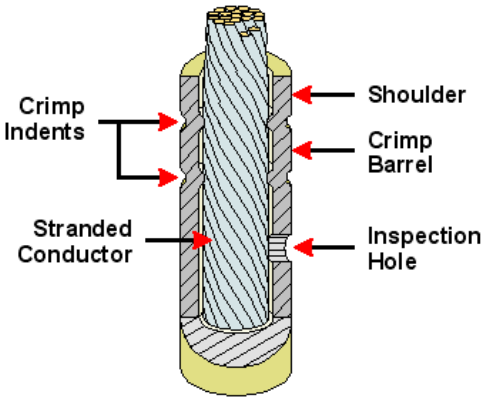
Crimp / Conductor Combination [*1]			Minimum Axial Strength (Tensile) Pounds Force (Newtons) [*2]			
Crimp Barrel Size		Wire Size (AWG)	Silver- or tin-plated Copper Wire	Nickel-plated Copper Wire	Copper Wire	High-Strength Copper Alloy Wire
LARGE	08	08	- N/A -	- N/A -	288.0 (1281.1)	- N/A -
	10	10	- N/A -	- N/A -	159.0 (707.3)	- N/A -
	12	12	112.4 (500)	101.2 (450)	103.2 (459.1)	- N/A -
		14	71.9 (320)	60.7 (270)	65.1 (289.6)	- N/A -
	16	16	51.7 (230)	38.2 (170)	41.2 (183.3)	- N/A -
		18	34.8 (155)	- N/A -	32.0 (142.3)	- N/A -
		20	20.2 (90)	20.2 (90)	20.6 (91.6)	- N/A -
	20	20	20.2 (90)	13.5 (60)	20.6 (91.6)	- N/A -
		22	11.2 (50)	9 (40)	12.8 (56.9)	22.2 (98.7)
		24	9 (40)	6.7 (30)	- N/A -	14.4 (64.0)
	22 22D	22	11.2 (50)	9 (40)	12.8 (56.9)	22.2 (98.7)
		24	9 (40)	5.2 (23)	- N/A -	14.4 (64.0)
		26	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	8.0 (35.6)
		28	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	4.8 (21.3)
	22M 24	24	9 (40)	5.2 (23)	- N/A -	14.4 (64.0)
		26	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	8.0 (35.6)
		28	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	4.8 (21.3)
	26	26	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	10.8 (48)
		28	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	5.6 (25)
SMALL	28	28	- N/A -	- N/A -	- N/A -	5.6 (25)

SHIELD CRIMPS WITH GROUNDING LEAD [*1, *3]

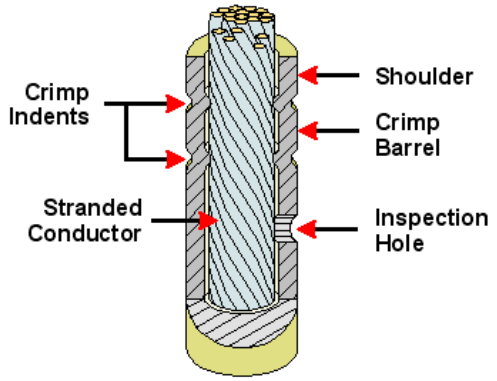
Wire Size (AWG)	Silver- or tin-plated Copper Wire	Nickel-plated Copper Wire	Copper Wire	High-Strength Copper Alloy Wire
20	20.2 (90)	13.5 (60)	20.6 (91.6)	- N/A -
22	11.2 (50)	9 (40)	12.8 (56.9)	22.2 (98.7)
24	9 (40)	6.7 (30)	- N/A -	14.4 (64.0)



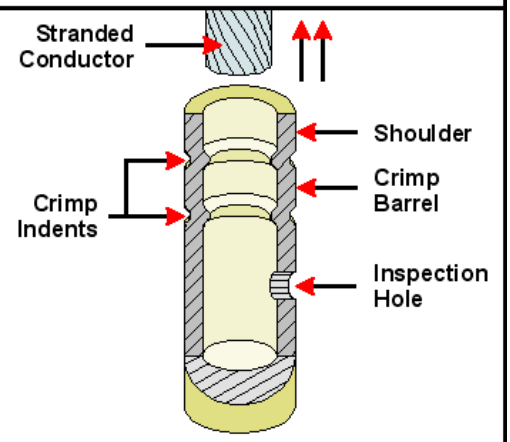
Failure Mode "A"
Conductor Break At Crimp
(Over-Crimp)



Failure Mode "B"
Conductor Break Outside of Crimp Barrel
(Preferred)



Failure Mode "C"
Conductor Fray Break
(Preferred)



Failure Mode "D"
Conductor Pullout of Crimp Barrel
(Under-Crimp)

CRIMP JOINT TENSILE FAILURE CATEGORIES

[✳] Notes:

1. Stranded wire only. Crimping of solid wire, and stranded wire that has been solder tinned, is prohibited.
2. For contact-conductor crimp combinations not listed in the table, the tensile strength of the crimp termination shall be no less than 60 percent of the tensile strength of the conductor.
3. Tensile values are for the ground lead-crimp termination only. Tensile tests are not typically performed on the shield-crimp termination.
4. Only full-cycle, ratcheting, non-user-adjustable tools shall be used.
5. Failure Modes: All Failure categories (modes) are acceptable, provided separation failure occurs above the minimum axial (tensile) strength.
6. Conductor breaks at the entrance of the contact wire barrel, caused by conductor cutting because the contact is not held squarely in the tester jaws, shall not be considered a preferred break.

Inspection and verification of assembled connectors shall include contact seating and retention tests, in applications in which the engaging (mating) ends of the pins or socket contacts are accessible.

Push Test: Push testing shall utilize a tool that minimizes the possibility of accidental contact bending and applies a controlled, preset pressure to the contact before releasing the force. Socket testing probes shall be undersized (compared to mating pin diameters) and shall not cause a mating cycle to occur.

Pull Test: Pull force contact retention testing shall be performed only on crimp-contact connectors in which the contact engaging (mating) ends are not accessible.

CONTACT RETENTION TEST [*1]

Contact Sizes		Push Test Force Pounds (Newtons)	Pull Test Force [*2] Pounds (Newtons)
LARGE	12	10 – 12 (44.5 – 53.4)	4 - 7 (17.8 – 31.1)
	16	8 - 10 (35.6 – 44.5)	4 - 7 (17.8 – 31.1)
	20	5 - 7 (22.2 – 31.1)	3 - 5 (13.3 – 22.2)
SMALL	22, 22D, 22M	4 - 6 (17.8 – 26.7)	3 - 5 (13.3 – 22.2)

[✳] Notes:

1. For contacts not listed, refer to connector manufacturer's recommendations.
2. The listed values are based on a conductor size of 24 AWG. If a smaller wire gage is used, the listed values should be adjusted accordingly. Wire shall not be pulled to a force in excess of 80 percent of the specified minimum crimp tensile requirement. This requirement must be met to avoid damage to the wire / contact crimp joint.

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APPENDIX
ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

All Flight hardware fabrication operations shall be performed in a controlled environment that limits the entry of contamination. Environmental parameters shall be recorded and documented.

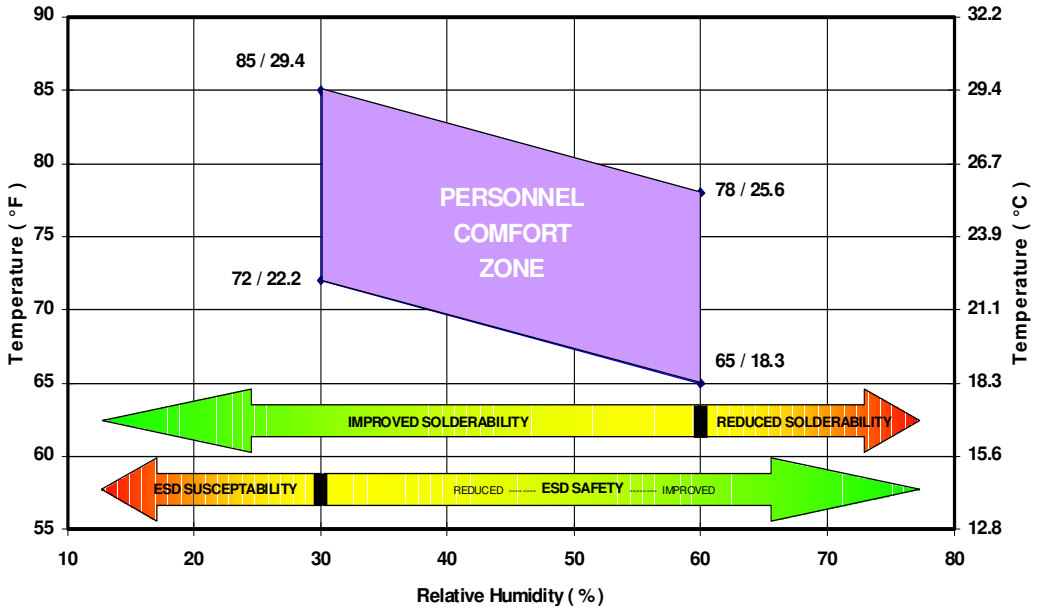
The appropriate temperature and humidity limits for the different assembly operations are given as follows:

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS	Temperature (°C / °F)		Humidity (% RH)	
TASK / OPERATION	Lower Limit	Upper Limit	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Cable & Harness Assembly	20 / 68	30 / 85	30	70
Conformal Coating	18 / 66	29 / 84	30	60
Crimping	18 / 66	32 / 90	10	90
Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Protection	--N/A--	--N/A--	30 ① 40 ②	70 ① 60 ②
Encapsulating / Potting	18 / 66	29 / 84	30	60
Fiber Optic Cable Assembly	20 / 68	30 / 85	30	70
Hand Soldering (PWB)	20 / 68	30 / 85	30	70
Wire Wrap	18 / 66	32 / 90	10	90
Printed Wiring Board (PWB) Assembly	16 / 65	32 / 90	10	90
Staking	18 / 66	29 / 84	30	60
Surface Mount Technology (SMT)	16 / 65	30 / 85	30	60

Notes:

1. Relative humidity ranges for Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Protection
   - ① Nominal % R.H.
   - ② Desired % R.H.
2. Special Environmental Requirements. Parts or equipment being processed that require more stringent control of environmental conditions than those stated above, shall have those requirements and controls identified and specified in the engineering documentation.

Environmental Conditions for High-Reliability Electronics Manufacturing



PERSONNEL COMFORT ZONE

The temperature and humidity of the work area shall be maintained within the limits defined as the comfort zone. The supplier shall monitor and maintain records of the work area temperature and humidity conditions.

LIGHTING

Light intensity shall be a minimum of 1077 Lumens per square meter (Lm/m^2) or 100 foot-candles, measured on the work surface. Supplemental lighting may be used to achieve the required lighting levels.

VENTILATION SYSTEM

Areas used for cleaning parts, and areas where toxic or volatile vapors are generated, shall have an adequate ventilation system for removing air contaminants. The ventilation system shall comply with the recommendations and guidelines of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirement 29CFR.

REMOTE / FIELD OPERATIONS

In remote / field operations, the required controlled conditions cannot be effectively achieved. Special precautions shall be taken to minimize the effects of the uncontrolled environment on the operation being performed on the hardware. These precautions shall be identified in the appropriate engineering documentation.

APPENDIX
INSPECTION OPTICS

Inspection aids shall be selected appropriate to the item(s) or task(s) being inspected. Inspections shall be performed, using aids conforming to the following requirements:

1. Microscopes equipped with refractor boxes, oblique illumination (or other 45º angle viewing aids), video cameras, monitors, and/or still photographic capabilities are permissible.
2. Inspection light sources shall provide shadowless illumination.
3. The use of coherent light sources for inspection of fiber optic terminations shall be prohibited.
4. For inspection of solder connections, magnification aids that permit simultaneous viewing with both eyes (stereoscopic) are preferred, but not mandatory.
5. Use only glass optical elements.
6. The use of nondestructive inspection methods (e.g. x-ray, laser, and automated inspection systems) is permissible; however, the process shall be fully documented and shall not damage or degrade parts.

OPTICAL INSPECTION REQUIREMENTS	MAGNIFICATION POWER [*1]	
Operation / Task	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Cable & Harness Assembly	4X	10X
Conformal Coating (Requires black-light inspection)	4X	10X
Crimping	4X	10X
Electrostatic Discharge Protection (ESD)	--N/A--	--N/A--
Encapsulating / Potting / Underfill	4X	10X
Fiber Optic Cable Assembly [*2]		
a. General	50X	80X
b. Endface / cleaved end inspection	100X	200X
Hand / Through-Hole Soldering (NPTH / PTH / PWB)	4X	10X
Printed Wiring Board (PWB) Assembly	3X	10X
Staking / Bonding	4X	10X
Surface Mount Technology (SMT)		
a. Pre-soldering operations (Assembly / component placement / coplanarity / part alignment / paste testing / tinning)	4X	45X
b. Soldered connections: Land width ≥ 0.65mm (0.025")	10X	25X
c. Soldered connections: Land width < 0.65mm (0.025")	25X	40X
d. Soldered connections: Land width < 0.39mm (0.015")	25X	45X
e. Ball Grid Array (BGA) [*3]	4X	45X
f. Chip-On-Board (COB) / Multi-Chip Module (MCM)	10X	200X
Wire Wrap	3X	10X

[✳] **NOTES:**

1. Additional magnification shall be used as necessary to resolve suspected defects.
2. **WARNING:** Extreme caution shall be exercised during the handling and optical inspection of fiber optics. Some light sources used in the testing and operation of fiber optics are extremely intense, may be operating in the visible or invisible spectrum, and can cause serious and permanent eye damage (often without any initial sensation of pain). **Always assume an optical fiber is powered and operational, until confirmed otherwise !!**
3. Three-dimensional (3-D) X-ray laminography is recommended.

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APPENDIX
HARNESS TIE SPACING

Discrete wiring assembled into interconnecting cables or harnesses should be properly secured to ensure a highly reliable, robust assembly, providing proper stress relief and conductor support for the intended application.

All harness ties (i.e.: spot, plastic strap, stitch, etc.) shall be snug and properly spaced, without pinching or crushing the insulation, or bunching the conductors. Special attention should be given to harnesses containing coaxial and/or fiber optic cables, as these are extremely impedance-sensitive to crushing / deformation.

HARNESS TIE SPACING

Harness Outer Diameter [O.D.] mm (inches)	Max. Distance Between Ties mm (inches)	Max. Distance From Connector Or Connector Accessory To First Tie mm (inches)
≤ 6.4 (0.2 5)	19.1 (0.75)	25.4 – 50.8 (1 - 2)
12.7 (0.5)	38.1 (1.50)	25.4 – 50.8 (1 - 2)
25.4 (1.00)	50.8 (2.00)	50.8 – 76.2 (2 – 3)
> 25.4 (1.00)	76.2 (3.00)	76.2 – 101.6 (3 – 4)

NOTES:

1. Spot ties (lacing) shall consist of a clove hitch, followed by a square knot (or other non-slip knot).
2. Lacing tie ends shall be trimmed. When knots are to be staked, the necessary compounds, as well as any special design requirements shall be specified.
3. Plastic strap / cable ties (i.e.: Ty-Rap®, etc.) should have metal tangs, and shall be of the locking / permanent design. The “ribbed” side of the strap shall be placed against the wires, and tightened to prevent movement on the assembly. Surplus strap ends shall be trimmed flush at the back of the strap head.
4. Ties shall be placed immediately before and immediately after any breakout of a wire or cable from the harness.

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Active Device
A discrete electronic component whose state (conductive) properties change when subjected to the application of an applied electrical signal (i.e.: diode, integrated circuit, transistor, etc.).

Attenuation
A reduction of signal amplitude (power), measured in decibels (db).

Best Workmanship Practice
A procedure, practice, or process attribute that has been demonstrated through use and experience, to result in a robust design and high reliability; but, which has not been identified as a specific attribute / requirement in the NASA Technical Standard series, NASA-STD-8739.

Blind Via
A via (plated-through hole) that extends to only one surface (primary / secondary) of a multilayer printed wiring board, with the other end terminating to an internal plane or land.

Breakdown / Rolloff
A surface irregularity associated with fiber optics, characterized by an angular shearing of a portion of the endface resulting in a rounded edge.

Buried Via
A via (plated-through hole) that does not extend to either surface of a multilayer printed wiring board, but instead terminates to internal planes / lands.

Chip-On-Board (COB)
A printed wiring board assembly process in which unpackaged die (or dice) are bonded to the board surface, and interconnected to the surrounding printed circuitry and/or adjacent die by wire bonding techniques.

Component Side
The primary side of a printed wiring board, from which through-hole components are typically inserted and which is opposite the solder application side of the board in solder wave assembly processes. The majority of the active circuit components typically populate the component / primary side. See also “Solder Side”.

Dead-Bug
An industry nickname for the discrete components added and wired into a printed wiring assembly (PWA) to facilitate circuit modifications, rather than redesign and manufacture a new board. The nickname comes from their general appearance on the board: upside down, with their termination leads (legs) up in the air – like a dead bug.

Dice
Two or more die.

Die
The basic, leadless form of an electronic component (active, passive, or integrated circuit) supplied on a silicon substrate / chip.

Discrete Component
A separate component that performs a single circuit function (i.e.: resistor, capacitor, diode, transistor, etc.).

Double-Sided Assembly
A printed wiring assembly (either double-side or multi-layer) with components mounted on both the primary (component) and secondary (solder) sides.

Drain Wire
An uninsulated wire that is used for the electrically conductive termination of a foil mylar shield or ground plane.

Edge Flash
A thin layer of insulation that is produced during the stripping of insulated conductors.

Fiducial Mark
An artwork feature that provides a visual guide for component orientation and mounting.

Hackle
A surface irregularity associated with fiber optics, and characterized by a jagged, rippled, or stepped break in the fiber face, similar in appearance to a stepped mountain range or the rough fur on a dog's back.

Haywire
A discrete conductor used to facilitate minor circuit modifications to printed wiring assemblies (PWA), rather than redesign and manufacture a new board. (a.k.a.: white wire, jumper).

Key
A mechanical device or feature in addition to, or in lieu of, a polarization feature that ensures the coupling of identical connectors / components can occur in only one orientation and only to similar keyed connectors / components.

Mist
See "Hackle"

Mixed Technology
A surface mount term, referring to the use of through-hole and surface mount components on the same printed wiring assembly.

Multilayer Printed Wiring Board
A rigid, flexible, or rigid-flex printed wiring board having three or more printed wiring board layers that are mechanically bonded together and electrically interconnected.

Passive Device
A discrete electronic component whose state properties do not change when subjected to the application of an applied electrical signal (i.e.: resistor, capacitor, inductor, etc.).

Piggyback
The mounting of components on top of each other.

Pink Ring
A defect condition where the conductive layer around a through-hole / inner-layer interface has been stripped of its copper oxide coating, producing a “pinkish” coloration.

Popcorn
Popcorning is caused by the release of gas pressure entrapped in the component body during the soldering process. The effect can be relatively mild (body deformation) or can be destructive (seal breach or delidding). Popcorning is typically seen in plastic bodied devices that were exposed to an uncontrolled, high humidity environment during storage and/or assembly prior to soldering.

Primary Side
See “Component Side”.

Reflow Soldering
The process of mass soldering a printed wiring assembly in which all (or a majority) of the components have been installed with a solder tinning, solder paste, or solder preform deposit between the component lead(s) and the land, and where the soldering process is completed by exposing the entire assembly to a heated environment sufficient to cause the solder deposits to flow.

Secondary Side
See “Solder Side”.

Shadowing
A defect caused by the “blocking effect” of a component or other physical obstruction during the spray application of conformal coating, resulting in improper thickness or incomplete coverage.

Single-Sided Printed Wiring Board
A printed wiring board with a conductive pattern on only on side, typically the secondary (solder) side.

Solder Side
The secondary side of a printed wiring board, which is typically exposed to the application of solder during a mass soldering process (i.e. solder wave or solder fountain).

Underfill
A polymeric substance injected under an electronic component to provide mechanical support and thermal conductivity.

Via
A plated through hole that is used as an interlayer electrical connection, but is sized to prevent the insertion of component lead or other reinforcing material.